

Douglas Sullivan

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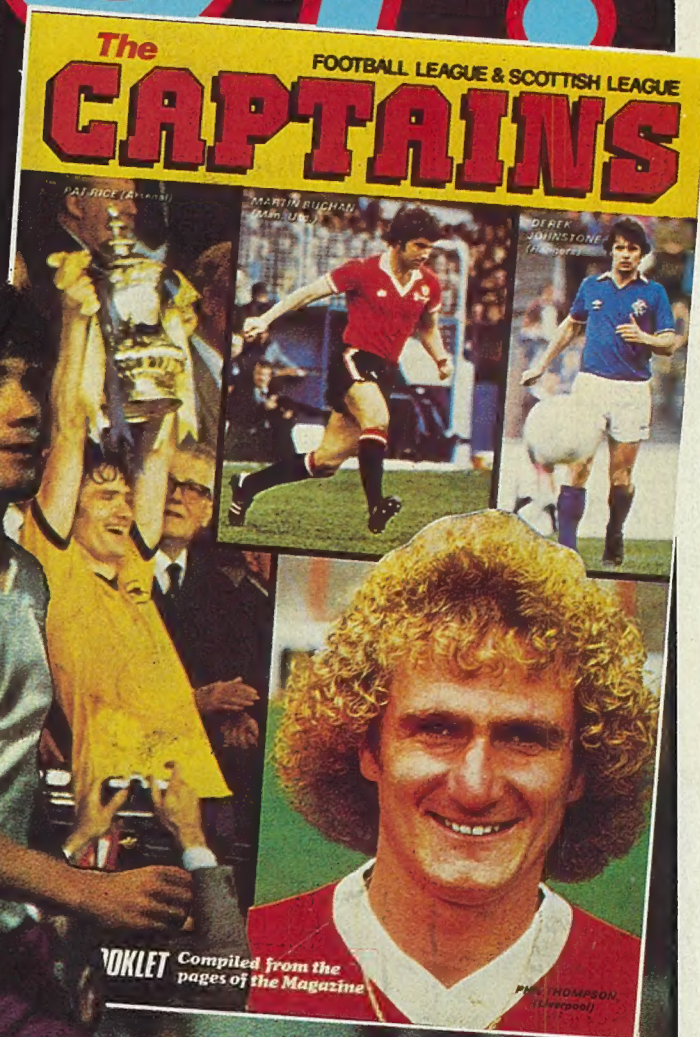
**Full colour covers for an English &
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SHOOT!

20p

15th SEPTEMBER, 1979

Denmark v. England, Copenhagen, September, 1978... when a Kevin Keegan-inspired England won 4-3. Can Kevin help England complete the double over the Danes at Wembley next week?



**European Championship
preview**

ENGLAND v. DENMARK

+ Scotland v. Peru

Wales v. Rep. of Ireland

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'We'll attack the Danes'

pledges RON GREENWOOD

**EUROPEAN
CHAMPIONSHIP**

ENGLAND v DENMARK

let's face it, if we win our matches nothing can stop us going through to the Finals in Italy next summer."

Talk of special tactics to deal with the Danes brings this sharp retort from Greenwood: "I have always had a philosophy based on scoring goals. What's the point of playing this great game negatively. We want to entertain and we want to win. That's all we ever set out to do and this match will be no different."

"I am sure the Danes will surprise some people with the quality of their football and let no one think they are going to be a soft touch. We will have to be at our best but if we play to our potential we ought to win."

During the early weeks of the season the England manager has continued his ritual of travelling the country keeping in touch with his squad and talking to various managers.

"Obviously I shall have to take Dave's lack of match practice into consideration when I name the side, but a lot can happen between now and the actual night so I can't say too much about the possible selection."

Without counting his chickens Greenwood knows that victory will put England into an almost unassailable position. They will then have nine points from just five matches, two more than Northern Ireland and with a match in hand. As England have also beaten the Irish twice in the past 12 months by convincing margins they won't exactly be having any worries about their next meeting in Belfast on October 17.

THE fans that go to Wembley on Wednesday (September 12th) are in for a feast of football. That's England manager Ron Greenwood's invitation to his side's World Cup qualifying tie against Denmark.

"I'm sure anyone who's there will be pleasantly surprised," says the man who has revitalised his country's fortunes over the past two years.

"People said it was a joke game when we beat the Danes 4-3 in Copenhagen, but that was only because it's comparatively rare to get so many goals in an international match these days."

"In fact we scored four good goals and you had to give all credit to Denmark for coming back at us."

"A lot of sides would have packed it in after being two goals down in 20 minutes — both headers by Kevin Keegan — but the Danes really hit back and scored three excellent goals from their point of view. We were particularly disappointed about giving them away, but you have to admit they are a clever, attacking side."

In fact Greenwood rates Denmark among the most enterprising sides in the world.

"When you consider that three of their players Soren Lerby, Frank Arnesen and Henning Jensen all play for Ajax, one of the best teams in the world, Allan Simonsen, is with Barcelona, Birger Jensen Bruges, Carsten Nielsen Borussia Monchengladbach, and Flem-

ing Lund with Fortuna Dusseldorf you can see what a professional squad Denmark has at its disposal."

"They have a new coach from Germany since the last time we met and it will be interesting to see the sort of influence he has on them."

Northern Ireland manager Danny Blanchflower agrees with Greenwood that Denmark are the best team after England in the Group. Although their results have perhaps been disappointing, up until the 4-0 thrashing of the Irish on the same night that England were winning against the Bulgarians in Sofia, they are potentially the most exciting side.

Greenwood observes: "They are a very fluent sort of team who take some handling. Obviously their weaknesses are in defence. They've conceded 13 goals as well as scoring 13."

"Anybody who assumes we're playing a lot of Scandinavian amateurs is stupid, and they will come to Wembley very eager to perform well."

"Wembley is a platform that always brings out the best in overseas players. It is a mecca of world football and everyone who steps on to the turf is lifted by the pride of just being there."

"The Danes cannot qualify for the Finals so they have no pressure whatsoever and they can come at us. Our job is simply to score more goals than they do. The winning of the group is in our hands because

Impressed

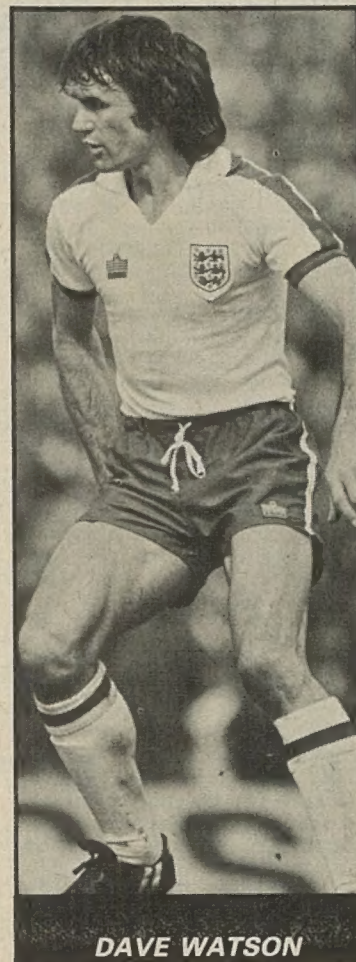
"In the first fortnight of the season I saw 13 of the senior players and I was generally very impressed with the standard of the football. Ipswich, Nottingham Forest and Manchester United all played the sort of free-flowing football which can only be good for the development and image of the game and if this trend continues I think England in general will benefit considerably."

The one blemish so far has been the dismissal of Dave Watson in only his second game for Werder Bremen in the Bundesliga.

Watson, the only man to have played in all 19 England matches since Greenwood assumed control, was sent-off much to his own and everyone else's chagrin, and now seems almost certain to be totally inactive in the period up to the Denmark match.

"I haven't spoken to Dave yet, but Bill Taylor has and naturally he's very upset about the whole business."

"It seems he put his hands up in the middle of an argument and the referee took a sterner view of that than he did of some pretty bad tackles. It's the sort of thing that goes on in some of these countries, but we have to learn to live with it as players and managers."



DAVE WATSON

'Denmark's breaks and power shooting a worry'

— warns **Brooking**



TREVOR Brooking has good reason to remember the last meeting between England and Denmark. It was in Copenhagen on September 20th last year, and he played an absolute blinder in England's nail-biting 4-3 victory.

"Yes, it went very well that night. I was pleased with my game and touch wood there'll be a repeat performance at Wembley."

Before that match most critics had tended to write the Danes off as a team of hopeful Scandinavians with more endeavour than expertise, but they proved everybody wrong.

"As a team we weren't too surprised because we'd been warned beforehand not to expect an easy passage. Kevin's knowledge of the lads who play in Germany was very useful and he told us they were capable of some very good football."

"We knew they would be calling all their foreign stars back, and so I think we were prepared for them."

"When we took a two-goal lead in the first 20 minutes I suppose we became a little complacent and it was remarkable really that after that they came right back at us every time we scored."

"We never had the security of a two-goal lead although we led 2-0, 3-1 and 4-2 because every single time they managed to catch us

with a sucker punch."

Like the rest of the England players Trevor is only too well aware of every coach's warning that a team is at its most vulnerable when it has just scored and may be off guard because of the state of euphoria.

"Frank Arnesen scored a brilliant goal to make it 2-1, and then after Bob Latchford had got our third Allan Simonsen scored from a penalty which we shouldn't have given away, and it was back to 3-2."

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

"Even when, we thought Phil Neal had made the game safe for us with a cracking shot, back they came again to make it 4-3. It was that sort of game and really you have to say they never knew when to lie down."

"Every time the ball went from one end of the field to the other you expected a goal it was dominated so much by the attacks."

It was Brooking who laid on England's first two killer goals, each brilliantly executed by Kevin Keegan's masterly timing and heading ability.

"People talk about the great telepathy between Kev and

myself, but it isn't something we talk about beforehand. Obviously we enjoy playing together but I think all it is really is that Kev is so quick and sharp, always busy and with such an appetite for work, that as a midfield man every time I look up he's available for a pass."

"He can run all night and he makes life easier for the rest of us playing around him."

Trevor reckons the Danes to watch out for at Wembley will be Simonsen (a world class player who's on the move all the time and always causing problems), and midfield men Arnesen and Lerby both capable of telling breaks from midfield and powerful shooting.

"In Copenhagen they obviously came at us quite a lot and I suppose they may play a different type of game at Wembley."

"Where we'll have to be most careful is in watching their breaks from defence. They'll probably just leave two or even one man up, and as they're so quick we'll have to be on our guard."

"I don't suppose they've anything to lose by attacking us, and after all that appears to be the strongest part of their game."

Brooking also appreciates that Denmark will be keen to do well simply because they're playing at Wembley.

"It's a prestige match so far as they are concerned, and everyone

wants to get a result against England, so even if they can't qualify for the European Championship Finals they'll be trying to stop us."

"We have the feeling that we really need four points from four games to be certain so it would be nice to start the international season with a victory. It tends to set the pattern for the rest of the year and it would send us into the match with Northern Ireland a few weeks later in terrific confidence."

"The important thing these days is that we all look forward to getting together as a squad. Two or three years ago we were perhaps a little apprehensive. It's amazing what a few good results can do, and since we started stringing together a few victories the morale has been sky-high."

"I'm enjoying my football right now even though West Ham didn't make too good a start to the season, and after all the injury problems I had last term I'm looking forward to a happier time — especially with England who I'm sure will be in Rome next summer."

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All the best . . .

Peter Stewart

Editor

SHOOT: When did you last see the present England team in action?

PIONTEK: Oh, I'm afraid it's a long time ago. It was the 4-0 win against Northern Ireland. But I know the players very well. I know Keegan personally, and Watson, who has joined my old club.

SHOOT: What is your impression of the England team?

PIONTEK: I think they are on the right track to become a great football nation again. Of course, they have always been that, but the national team haven't done so well in recent tournaments. They failed to reach Germany '74, Yugoslavia '76 and Argentina '78. But now, they are a much better side and I'm sure they will play well in coming years.

SHOOT: Do you see any weak-

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

nesses in the team? Watson and Brooking, but to me the only world-class player is Keegan. In my own team, we don't have one player. Simonsen and Henning Jensen are very good international players, but not world-class.

SHOOT: You were known as a fighter in your playing days. What kind of player do you prefer in the Danish team?

PIONTEK: Everybody inside this game knows that you can't build a team out of only one kind of player. You need a good combination between the fighters and the technical players. I will always go

to lack confidence.

SHOOT: It has surprised some people that Denmark have scored 13 goals in six games. Why do Denmark score so many goals?

PIONTEK: We have some good players, who can score. Simonsen, Henning Jensen, Arnesen, Lerby and Benny Nielsen can all score important goals. But we have been too attacking, because — as you can see in the table — our defence has suffered. We scored three goals against England, but they scored four. So, in the end it was a good game, but we lost.

SHOOT: You have said that you want to build the team with "home" players.

PIONTEK: When I said that I was thinking about all the problems with the "foreign" players when they come home for internation-

"foreign" stars...

PIONTEK: I don't like the word "star". People in Denmark always talk about the big stars abroad, but I don't think there are any. A star in football is someone like Kevin Keegan or Rossi or Trevor Francis. Here in Denmark, the fans think a player is a star when he signs a contract with a foreign club. Sure, Simonsen and Arnesen are very good players, but not stars. I don't want a team of stars, because it will not be successful. In football you need workers as well as the gifted ball players.

SHOOT: Which team will you field at Wembley?

PIONTEK: The exact line-up I cannot give you, but I think we will have a good side there because everybody wants to play at the most famous football ground in

'Why Denmark want to win at Wembley'

New manager JOSEF PIONTEK explains

nesses in the team?

PIONTEK: I can't answer that question now. I shall see some films with my players and try to spot eventual weak points, but at the moment it's hard for me to talk about England's weakness. Well, maybe it is a leader they miss. Bobby Charlton was perfect but they don't have a player of his kind today. Keegan is a great player, but not a leader. On the other hand, the whole English team seem to be working for each other, so maybe they don't really need a leader.

SHOOT: England have improved since Ron Greenwood took over, but their critics point out that the two hardest games, in Germany and Austria, have been lost. Are England good enough to win this competition?

PIONTEK: I don't know whether they've come that far. It takes a lot to win the European Championship. You need a balanced side, you need luck, and 11 exceptional players plus some super subs, and — perhaps the most important — the team must boil at the right time. England were unlucky to lose to West Germany in Munich. They were better in the second-half and deserved to win. I believe there still are some problems with the team and when they meet the Italys and the Hollands, they're really going to need all the things I've just mentioned.

SHOOT: Which English players are world-class?

PIONTEK: At the moment, it's Kevin Keegan. But it is a big word, you know, and people tend to label it on anybody who can do a little with a ball. There are other outstanding England players, like

for a good mixture rather than a fighting team or a technical team.

SHOOT: Which system will Denmark play?

PIONTEK: I have given it a lot of thought. In our matches we have scored goals, but also conceded many. So we shall have to put more emphasis on a safe defence.

SHOOT: Which of Denmark's games have you seen?

PIONTEK: I saw the match in Dublin and the home game versus Northern Ireland.

SHOOT: What were the good and the bad sides of Denmark?

PIONTEK: One weak point of the Danish team is the changes. We haven't been able to play the same team twice and new faces can be good now and then, but if it is in every match, it's a problem. As I said before, it is the defence we shall have to improve. In Dublin it was very bad. The Irish only had two or three real goal chances and they won 2-0.

SHOOT: Why did Denmark suddenly play so well against Northern Ireland?

PIONTEK: That match was an experiment, which obviously worked well. Compared to the game in Dublin, we had three new players in the defence and the midfield with Morten Olsen, Frank Arnesen and Soren Lerby was also a success. Besides, we had a lucky day, while the Irish players seemed

als. The main problem is they don't know each other. I thought it was a good idea to use the "home" players, because I'd have more control with them. Naturally, I will only use players from the Danish League if they're good enough. I have been in Denmark two months now, and I've been disappointed. The talent is here, but they still haven't got the professional approach.

SHOOT: So, you prefer the

the world.

SHOOT: Players like Allan Simonsen and Henning Jensen are used to the big match atmosphere, but what about the rest of the team? Do you think the big crowd can have an influence on them?

PIONTEK: I shall probably not have inexperienced players in my Wembley team, but you're right — a big crowd CAN disturb a young player making his first or second performance.

SHOOT: Denmark have only collected four points in six games and have no chance in the group. Will you use the last two matches in London and Sofia as warm-up games before the World Cup qualification?

PIONTEK: We want to make a good finish in the European Championship. We want to increase our figure in the "win" column and if we can finish second or third we will get an easier draw for the World Cup. On the other hand, we must prepare for the World Cup games now and perhaps we shall see one or two experiments in these last European Championship games.

◆ Interview by Jens Chr. Nøhr.

Former West German international Piontek studies our report on England's summer tour. The Denmark manager speaks hardly any Danish yet, and as our correspondent's German is not very good, the interview was conducted in English.

Scotland v. Peru, Friendly, Hampden Park, September 12th.



Peru go wild after scoring their third goal against Scotland in Cordoba during last year's World Cup Finals.

THE word "Peru" has been almost as unpopular as "England" since that ill-fated evening last year in Córdoba when Scotland, unexpectedly, lost 3-1 to the South Americans, a result that virtually killed their World Cup hopes. A million words were written about that game and subsequent events, but when Peru visit Hampden Park next week, Scotland at least have the chance to gain some revenge.

And Teófilo Cubillas, the Peruvian who did more than any other to smash Scotland in 1978, believes that Jock Stein's side can win this time. Nene, as he's nicknamed, won't be playing; nor will any of the Peruvians who lined-up in Argentina. The 30-year-old midfielder says: "Peruvian football is in a poor way. After the World Cup most of our players emigrated.

Techniques

"We have a new manager and new players who lack international experience and know-how. I can't honestly see Peru winning again, although of course I'd love to be proved wrong."

In fairness, few people, especially in Scotland, could see Peru winning in Córdoba, but they did, and with this in mind there is no way Jock Stein's troops will be complacent at Hampden. The Scots have learned the hard way that South Americans possess skills and techniques Europeans simply can't match.

Cubillas continues: "I'd like to play in this particular match, but the Fort Lauderdale Strikers have some exhibition games lined-up. Anyway, perhaps it's better that younger players are given a chance.

"I'll never forget that game against Scotland last year. People still come up and ask me about it. It may have been a surprise to

'SCOTLAND WILL WIN THIS TIME'

says TEOFILIO CUBILLAS,

the man whose goals for Peru sank Scotland in the World Cup

many, but we prepared well for the World Cup and reached our peak at the right moment.

"I envy Jock Stein. He has so many good players still to choose from and many more facilities than we do. I don't know who will be in the Peru team. It's unlikely anyone from the World Cup will play. For instance, Accassuso will be in goal instead of 'El Loco' Quiroga."

Stein is still building his side and will be eager to give the Hampden fans something to cheer about after their 3-1 defeat by Argentina last June. He has said that club reputations mean nothing; it's what the players do for Scotland that counts. Scotland have games in October, November and December, so Stein has an opportunity to see his men in action against both South American and European opposition home and away.

Meanwhile, Nene is enjoying his new career in the United States with the Strikers (he pronounces it Streakers!). He has just completed his first season and is "very happy" to be in Florida.

"I had an offer to join the Cosmos," he says, "but didn't want to join a club with so many well-known stars who think they know it all. I preferred a side with fewer leaders and more workers. Also, the climate in Fort Lauderdale suits me.

"The three years I had in Europe in Switzerland and Portugal helped me settle down. I know the European style; I'm the only South American at the club."

Nene has lost none of his pace or skill. Everton's Garry Stanley, who was on loan to the Strikers this summer says: "He's a greedy player and drove us mad at times. But then he'd pick the ball up in his own half, run 60 yards beating three opponents before scoring from 20 yards. What can you say when the bloke does that?"

Considering his English is still very limited, Nene has done well. He and Gerd Müller tend to dominate the team, but Nene is so easy-going his European team-mates took to him instantly.

"After the season, I'm going to South Africa to play in some special games and then I'll return to Peru for a rest. I haven't had a break from soccer for a couple of years, so I think I deserve it."



NEW WELSH STARS BOOST HOPES

WALES v. REP of IRELAND
Friendly, Swansea
September 11th

WALES have made their weakness their strength. That is the shared — and jubilant — opinion of Robbie James and Peter Nicholas, who both stormed to international success in the four hectic weeks at the end of last season.

Both youngsters are certain to become match-winners for a decade and Wales manager Mike Smith has scheduled an early start this season: there is a warm up international against the Republic at Swansea's Vetch Field on Tuesday (Sept 11) . . . before Wales get down to the really serious business of the decisive European Championship qualifying matches against West Germany and Turkey in the next few weeks.

Looking at the arrival of James and Nicholas in the British Championship matches last May and then in the European Championship victory over Malta at the appalling Gzira Stadium in June, Smith says: "Things are really starting to happen for us. The future is very exciting indeed."

Those four internationals produced an unbeaten run for Wales and the first international goals for James (against Northern Ireland) and for Nicholas (against Malta). Their shooting, aggression and pace made them brilliantly successful.

The friendly against Johnny Giles' Republic of Ireland side provides yet another chance for

James and Nicholas to "bed down" in the squad — and for all the Welsh players to tune their form before that mountain of a task in Cologne against Group Seven favourites West Germany.

"The rest of the lads have made it easy for me. It is like playing for a club side," says James.

Manager Mike Smith operates on a shoestring of talent compared to England's Ron Greenwood or Scotland's Jock Stein. He has cleverly turned that to the advantage of Welsh football by fostering a team spirit that equals anything at Liverpool or Nottingham Forest.

Disappointment

Now the tiny group of Welsh players are such close friends and know each other's games to the last inch that their effectiveness was once again proved to the hilt in May and June. They charged back from the disappointment of defeat by West Germany at Wrexham to beat Scotland at Cardiff; draw against England at Wembley and Northern Ireland at Windsor Park; then triumph 2-0 against Malta on that Gzira pitch which reduced West Germany to a 0-0 humiliation.

"Coming on against the Germans at Wrexham and then staying in the side for the next four internationals was just what I needed," says James. "As far as playing alongside John Toshack and Alan Curtis in the front three is

concerned, the understanding was already there from our dozens of games together at Swansea: but every international chance, such as this game coming up against the Republic improves my experience and confidence."

Now, says Swansea's player-manager Toshack, the 22-year-old James is there to stay. "He is a natural. Every ability that the game demands is there in Robbie's range of skill," assesses Toshack.

"His pace, his control, his 'brain' and his shooting are all out of the top drawer."

"It was partnering Tosh and Alan which made me come alive in the red shirt of Wales," reflects James. "When Alan went wide, I knew I had to be direct; I knew the positions that John would be taking up; they, in turn, knew where they could find me."

"Behind us, Leighton Phillips could direct the passes out of defence just as he has been doing in our promotion run at Swansea. And, of course, I had been the Wales Youth and Under-21 sides with several of the other Welsh players. It is really like a family business!"

The Eire game brings the Toshack-titled 'Swansea front row' together at the Vetch Field for the first time in international football. Although Curtis has left for Leeds, that unique brand of understanding they fostered between them in two prolific scoring promotion seasons will never be lost.

Nicholas came on for skipper Terry Yorath for two minutes against Scotland; played for 30 minutes against Northern Ireland in another substitute appearance;



ROBBIE JAMES

then produced a magnificent first full international in Malta after Yorath had dropped-out through illness.

The 19-year-old Palace youngster struck home the first Welsh goal after 15 minutes, patrolled the sand-and-gravel pitch with the authority of the vastly experienced skipper he replaced and won the accolade from manager Smith of "having a game of which Terry could have been proud."

Smith's loyalty to his players has produced the expressive, positive and passionate football that now puts little Wales on a par with England and Scotland who have ten times as many players of top flight calibre at their beck and call.

With newcomers like James, Nicholas and Wolverhampton's George Berry Wales could now be set for their finest years since playing in the Finals of the 1958 World Cup.

ONLY THE SECOND MEETING

Republic have played without the midfield general as recently as last October when Giles was ruled out through injury of the European Championship game against England.

Luton's new signing from Orient, Tony Grealish, seems the likely replacement for his international boss. But who will captain the Irish? Will it be Mick Martin or maybe Liam Brady?

The game should give Giles and his Wales counterpart Mike Smith an opportunity to try out new players before they face Bulgaria and West Germany respectively in European Championship games next month.

Incidentally, Wales's last game at Swansea was in May, 1976, against Northern Ireland when they won 1-0. No doubt John Toshack will be included in front of his home supporters and his deadly finishing could make it a double success for the home side.



TONY GREALISH

ALTHOUGH geographically Wales is close to the Republic of Ireland, the countries have only met once previously at full international level.

On Tuesday (Sept. 11th) a 19-year gap will be bridged when the sides meet at the Vetch Field, Swansea (kick-off 7.30pm).

The only previous meeting between these two Celtic neighbours was also played in the month of September at Dalymount Park, Dublin, when the visitors won by a 3-2 scoreline.

Johnny Giles was then a 19-year-old, winning his third Eire cap. On Tuesday Giles will direct proceedings from the bench, having retired from international football last May. But of course the

FIRST DAY GOALS

Fans love goals on the opening day of a new season. One hundred and ninety nine were scored in the English and Scottish Leagues. Top scoring clubs were Oxford and Stranraer, who both scored five apiece. Here are a few more . . .



BELOW . . . Southampton's David Peach opens Saints' goal account with this penalty against Manchester United.

Sheffield Wednesday's Terry Curran (stripes) slots the ball home as Barnsley's Alan Little and John Collins look on.



IN SHOOT NEXT WEEK . . .

Colour: John Robertson (Nottm. Forest); Everton v. Spurs match action; Manchester City team group; Focus on Frank McGarvey (Liverpool); Crystal Palace stars Mike Flanagan and Gerry Francis; and Joe Jopling (Aldershot), Billy Bonds (West Ham), John Wile (West Brom) and Derek Rylance (Arbroath) featured in our Captains Booklet.

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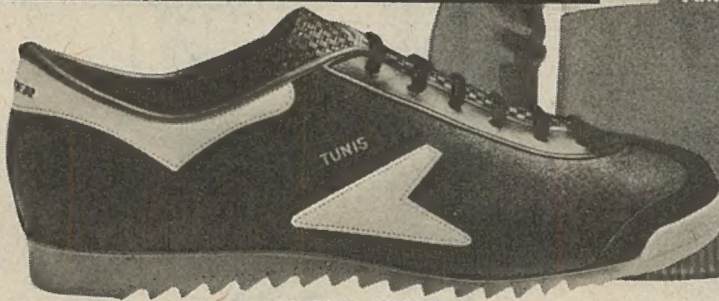
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WELCOME to Nottingham Forest." That's normally Brian Clough's first words to a newcomer through the doors at the City Ground — whether it's a £1 million player, or the latest addition to the office or cleaning staff.

You see, the boss treats everyone the same at Forest. No one can expect special favours.

As I said in my first column a fortnight ago, I owe Mr Clough and Peter Taylor a debt of gratitude I can never possibly repay.

Forest's achievement over the past few years is due to their ability to bring out the best in players.

Although the boss is more mellow than he was a few years ago, I'm still a little wary of him. But I suppose that's how it should be between a manager and his players.

This attitude keeps you alert, uncertain of what his next move might be. You can never anticipate him, nor can you afford to relax.

As long as you give 100 per cent to Forest you've nothing to fear from Brian Clough or Peter Taylor. But cheat, or fall short of their expectations and beware.

Not that anyone at the City Ground has anything to be afraid of. One secret of our success is having players with the right character... lads who will blend in with each other and not cause unnecessary bother.

Brian Clough usually calls his players "Young man", hardly ever by their christian name.

Mind you, he can conjure up a few choice names in the dressing rooms after a particularly bad game. He can let rip then.

Edgy

You wouldn't expect one of the game's most controversial and outspoken managers to be nervous would you? Well, he's not, of course, but on occasions, like the day of a vital match, he can be a bit edgy and tense.

Talk to anyone about Forest and they'll inevitably ask what Mr Clough says to players in the dressing room on match days.

His pre-match message is usually the same: "You can't play without the ball. So get the ball and earn your money. Now go out and show your talents."

If Forest are doing well by half-time he'll go round during the break telling us to keep it up... play as we have been doing.

A poor first half performance will be greeted with a demand for more effort and a possible change of tactics.

A win will bring smiles all round and a "Well done, lads." A defeat can mean a roasting, an immediate inquest behind locked doors lasting several hours, and then, perhaps, an order to report to the ground for further "discussions" on the Sunday morning.

Sometimes when Forest lose, Mr Clough will tell us to "Go home and forget it... and we'll talk about it Monday morning."

No one looks forward to Monday after a defeat I can assure you.

It's very difficult for me as a player to talk about Brian Clough the man

because we obviously don't mix socially.

I do know he's a happy family man and enjoys nothing more than having a day at home with his wife and children, or The Bairns, as he calls them.

Sure he can be tough... perhaps tougher than most. But he's also one of the most generous and kind-hearted of people.

There are quite a few former players who have suddenly found a few quid slipped through the door. Or been pleasantly surprised when he has made an unscheduled appearance at a testimonial function to help boost finances.

When asked recently how he can possibly motivate himself after so much success, the boss said it's simply a matter of wanting to be the best manager in the world, not second best.



MY SOCCER
WORLD
**Viv
Anderson**



'Forest's secret of success'

Forest won't be second best. Brian Clough and Peter Taylor won't relax until they have created new records that may well stand for ever.

Peter Taylor has played a tremendous part in Forest's revival, and Mr Clough's success. But don't think for one moment he's a "yes" man, agreeing to everything the boss says.

The Forest number two has a mind of his own... a very strong-willed one and hasn't always seen eye-to-eye with Mr Clough.

One complements the other. Cloughie is a master of motivation while Peter's judgment of players and youngsters is unrivalled in the game.

He can tell at one glance whether a potential Forest buy has the necessary skill and character. Together Clough and Taylor make the best, and most knowledgeable "team" in football.

I was also going to talk about Forest team-mates this week but

Ron Greenwood will keep faith in Pi (right) in Denmark.

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FOOTBALLER

I know Frankie didn't really want to leave Leeds and was somewhat surprised to find himself starting the new season with the European Cup holders.

But the Scottish international has settled down very quickly at the City Ground and is anxious to show his old boss Jimmy Adamson what he is missing.

However, Brian Clough has told Frankie not to treat Leeds as anything special.

"Don't get over tense about it, son," he said. "Treat it as just another game. You've got nothing to prove."

Naturally, I'm delighted, Frankie, one of the finest full-backs in the game is at Forest. I'm sure we'll develop a tremendous partnership.

One Leeds player we'll both have to watch out for on Saturday is their summer signing from Swansea, Alan Curtis.

He had a super start for Leeds, scoring United's two goals in their 2-2 draw at Bristol City on the season's opening day.

Forest didn't do all that badly on August 18th, either, winning 1-0 at Ipswich, another side much fancied for honours this term. Tony Woodcock hit the winner.

Last season, Leeds held Forest 0-0 at the City Ground. Let's hope there'll be a few goals to enjoy this time.

Second Cap

Next Wednesday (September 12th) England play Denmark in their European Championship tie at Wembley.

While I don't expect to play I'll be very disappointed if Mr Greenwood leaves me out of his squad.

I know I won my second full cap against Sweden on England's summer tour, but feel sure he will keep the full-back partnership of Phil Neal and Mick Mills, who played so well in beating Bulgaria 3-0 in the European Championship.

While England are overwhelming favourites at Wembley there's no way Denmark will be treated lightly.

They've no chance of qualifying for the Finals in Italy next year, of course, but if they find the same form that defeated Northern Ireland 4-0 in June, the Danes could provide a set-back to England's plans.

Dangermen, if available to play, will be Allan Simonsen, recently signed by Barcelona from Borussia Monchengladbach, and Preben Elkjaer, who hit a hat-trick against Ireland.

I doubt if Denmark will be concentrating too much on attack against England, though. I've a feeling they'll defend and try to stop us going forward. A 0-0 draw would be bad for England ... but a great result for them.

See you next time ...

Kevin Anderson

now leave that topic for next time and concentrate on two big matches coming up.

This Saturday (September 8th) Forest are at home to a side that could possibly be challenging for honours this season — Leeds United.

There have been several changes at Elland Road over the past couple of months, like the transfers of Tony Currie to Q.P.R., and Frankie Gray to Forest.

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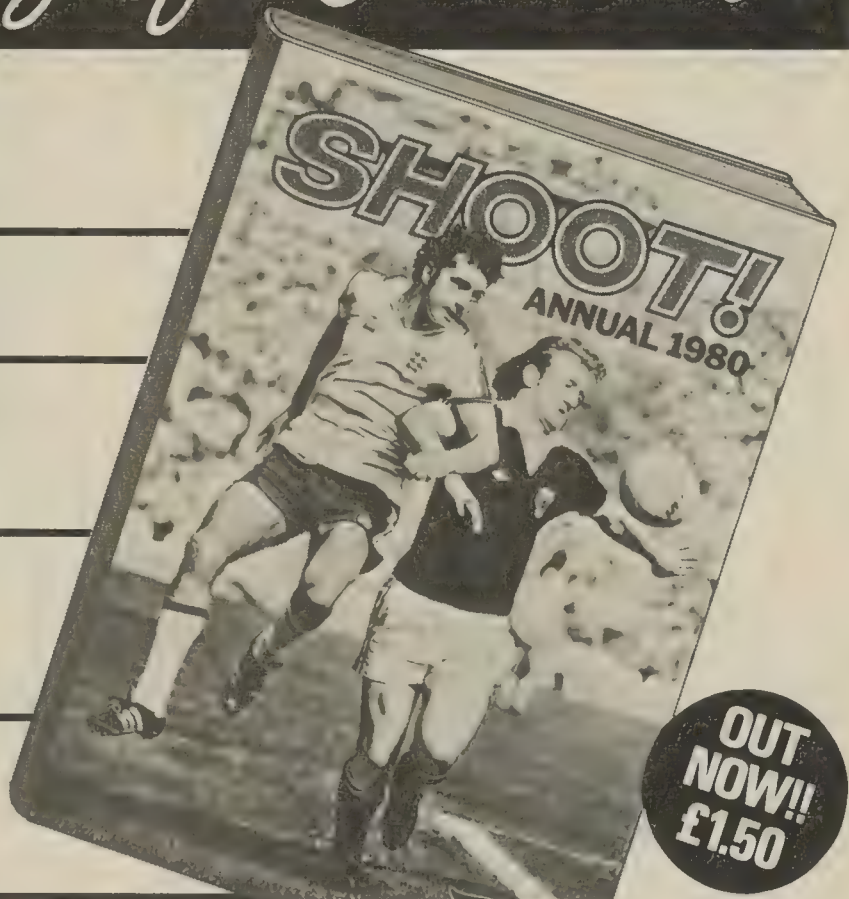
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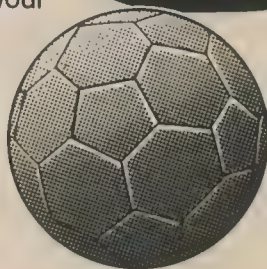
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Allan Simonsen (left) was Denmark's star in their 3-4 defeat by England.

'THE DANES

OUR first match in the European Championship against Denmark — who we meet at Wembley in the return next Wednesday — was not our hardest of the competition so far. But it was certainly the most entertaining!

For the fans, of course, not for the 'keepers. My only consolation was that although I had three goals struck past me, my opposite number, Birger Jensen, had to fish the ball from the back of his net four times.

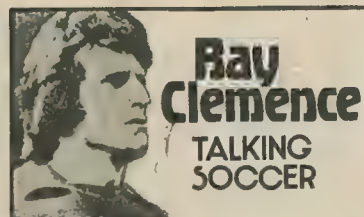
The game, played in Copenhagen last September, was a marvellous spectacle for the 47,000 fans, as it swung first one way, then another.

Seven goals scored, and the issue in doubt right up until the final whistle. The paying customers couldn't have asked for better value for their money.

Although our manager, Ron Greenwood, was naturally pleased we managed to get the required two points, he was not happy with the manner of our achievement, as he implied afterwards when he said: "While I am a noted advocate of attractive, attacking football, this was carrying it to extremes."

Looking back, it's obvious why we struggled to win by a narrow one-goal margin against a team we looked like annihilating.

A two-goal lead after twenty minutes had made us overconfident, with the near-fatal result we lost our discipline and relaxed. We should have known better than



Ray Clemence
TALKING SOCCER

to underestimate a team we'd been warned had the capacity to fight back and exploit any defensive slackness.

My Liverpool team-mate Steve Heighway, a Republic of Ireland international, had spoken of the Danes' ability to recover from being "on the ropes" when they had levelled against his team after being 3-1 down.

England had got off to a tremendous start, with Kevin Keegan, my former team-mate at Liverpool, scoring two goals in quick succession from headers.

But then the rot set in. England, especially the back-four, started to ease off, convinced that we were going to give the Danes a right pasting.

It was just the attitude the opposition were capable of exploiting. They tore into us, with the result that Phil Neal was forced into conceding a penalty, which Simonsen, their star player, easily converted.

Only three minutes later Arnesen, running on to a Kristensen through ball, added a second goal

'Our slackness was to blame for their goals'

to level the scores.

And so we were faced with one of the worst situations in football. From being the dominant team we were now struggling to get back into the game.

This often happens when the superior team scores too early. It's far better to have to work hard for a goal — to score it in the 60th minute, say — and then fight to hang on to the lead and perhaps grab a second to clinch the result.

The attack-minded Danes had taken advantage of our complacency to send us in at half-time knowing that we were right back where we had started, faced with the task of reasserting ourselves.

Ron Greenwood refrained from berating us, as many other managers would have done. We knew, as experienced professionals, the football "crime" we had committed, and returned to the fray determined to regain our supremacy.

But it was difficult to find the rhythm we'd established up to our second goal, and it was something of a lucky break for us when Bob Latchford got on the end of a Trevor Brooking centre and chested the ball home.

The Danes maintained he was

England player to do justice to himself.

In his early international days, Kevin was a player — like Kenny Dalglish — who never reproduced for his country the dazzling form he consistently showed for his club.

Since signing for current West German Champions Hamburger SV, Kevin has revealed true world class.

Many of the Danes I spoke to afterwards insisted that Kevin was the difference between the two sides on the night. I must confess, I'm glad he wasn't playing for them.

Missing

Their star was undoubtedly Simonsen, who may well be missing from their line-up at Wembley simply because their F.A. may not consider it worth the expense to bring him from Germany when they no longer have a chance of winning Group One and qualifying for the European Championship Finals in Rome next year.

It would be unwise, though, to assume our game will be a formality against a side merely going through the motions. The Danes' motivation will be to defeat England at Wembley, the ambition of all visitors to the Mecca of football.

Whatever the make-up of their team, you can be sure the players will be imbued with the traditional fighting spirit that almost caused

our downfall in Copenhagen. This was again displayed by the Danish Select side Liverpool played in a pre-season game, which we won by 5-2.

England must concentrate on putting the Danes under such continuous pressure the midfield is forced to support their defence and not their forwards.

Barring injuries, I expect England to field the same line-up as that which beat the Bulgarians at the start of our summer tour. But I'm sure none of us is taking this for granted. Kenny Sansom is challenging Mick Mills for his place, Viv Anderson for Phil's, and Peter Shilton for mine.

Dave Watson, who like Kevin has a clause in his contract releasing him for England games, should hold his place in the back-four, in spite of being suspended for eight weeks for striking an opponent while playing for Werder Bremen in West Germany.

England are well set to collect the four points we need from our remaining four games: against the Danes next week; Northern Ireland away in Belfast in October; and Bulgaria in November and the Republic of Ireland in February, both at Wembley.

It's one of my greatest ambitions to help England win the European Championship for the first time ever — and where better to do it

than in Rome. I returned from my last visit there with a European Cup winner's medal!

Before I report for duty with the England squad, I'm down to play for Liverpool in the League against Coventry City at Anfield.

The Midlands side always give us a hard fight at home, partly due to the fact that they are managed by Gordon Milne, a former Reds' star of the 60's.

Gordon is well versed in the techniques of Liverpool, evolved by Bob Paisley and his bootroom boys, and has drilled his team accordingly. City will attempt to force us into making mistakes by frustrating us.

Gordon is probably under pressure from his directors — who include "Match of the Day's" Jimmy Hill — to finish high enough in the League to qualify for European competition next year.

Last season they tended to give away goals, and for this reason signed Gary Collier from Bristol City to tighten up the defence.

I look forward to having a drink with Gordon — after we've collected both points.

Ray Clemence

ARE GREAT FIGHTERS'

guilty of handling, but Bob's innocence was confirmed when the referee unhesitatingly allowed the goal.

Simonsen almost grabbed an equaliser when he broke through with the ball.

Knowing that if he had time to settle, to place his shot, he was odds-on to score, I rushed out and forced him into a hasty lob which went wide of my goal.

I had a healthy respect for a man who had scored a terrific goal against me for Borussia Monchengladbach in the 1977 European Cup Final in Rome.

'Coventry always give Liverpool a hard game'

In the 84th minute, my Liverpool right-back Phil Neal appeared to sew the game up with a superb fourth goal, struck with his left foot. The ball flew into the top of the net, giving the Danish number one no chance of making a save.

Once again we made the mistake of easing off, allowing the Danes to swarm through — there seemed to be two of them to every England defender — to score a third goal.

So it was with a great feeling of relief we heard the final whistle, with the score held at 4-3 in our favour.

I'm sure I won't offend anyone by selecting Kevin Keegan as the only



Coventry (light strip), managed by former Liverpool player Gordon Milne, are under pressure to do well.

GEORGE KERR

On trial at Grimsby



GEORGE KERR, who for the past nine months was second in command to John Newman at Grimsby Town, has taken over the Blundell Park hot seat as caretaker manager.

"At the moment it's for three months," says George, "but the job has been advertised and a final decision will be made quite soon."

"John was a very popular fellow here with the players, supporters and myself. His loss to Derby is a big one, but he recommended to the board of directors that I take over the club."

"The actual feeling inside Blundell Park has not changed a great deal. John left a good club and it's been taken over very nicely."

"Grimsby is a good team — one that has just been promoted from the Fourth to the Third Division. It's a young side with a lot of very talented players in it. Our eldest is about 28, we've a couple around 26 and generally speaking the rest of them are between 19 and 22. So it's a very promising set-up that we have here."

"We've bought John Stone from Darlington for £25,000 — an exceptional buy. Joe Waters, the captain, signed in early August under the new freedom of contract rules when he was fully expected to go elsewhere. But we've signed him for the club and he'll be with us for the next two years."

Kerr won't be planning any sweeping changes. "The club's been built up on both John Newman's thinking and my own," he says. "So therefore it's just a matter of continuing with what's gone on in the past and trying to improve wherever it's needed."

"We're not changing our style at all. It was very successful for us last season and we see no reason to change. We've the same players; they're a good bunch who work well together and we've kept them together."

"We've shown people that we're not prepared to allow our players to be taken elsewhere. The board have supported that view and

we've kept the whole thing intact, I'm pleased to say. A lot of clubs have not been able to do that during the close season."

Kerr, 36, and born in Scotland, began his playing career with Barnsley in season 1961 and was at Oakwell for six years. Then he moved to Bury for six months. Following that he played at Oxford for two years before arriving at Scunthorpe.

"After five years at The Old Show Ground I broke a leg," says George, "which more or less finished my career. I had one season in the Third with them. Then I moved to Lincoln with Graham Taylor as player coach."

"I've actually worked with the three Lincolnshire clubs and I've been promoted with all three. In fact, nobody else has ever done that."

'Sack'

Kerr's last managerial position was at Lincoln. "I was with Graham Taylor for six years," he says, "and when Graham left for Watford I was offered the chance to go with him. I could have gone to Scunthorpe, but I decided to stay at Lincoln. After six months in the job a lot of things went wrong and I received the sack."

"I was out of the game for quite some time before John Newman brought me back into it and, of course, we had success very quickly at Grimsby."

Kerr thinks that the Third Division should be a very interesting League this season because of the intensity of Northern clubs in it, and it should prove to be very enjoyable.

"In this locality we've about eight teams within a radius of 80 miles and a good motorway network," he says.

What are Grimsby going to do? "The intention is that we progress as a club and, if we can get Second Division football, then that will be very nice. I can assure people that progress will be maintained."

GOALLINES

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This week's Star Letter comes from Andrew Hall of Pelsall, Walsall, who wins our Special Prize of £5. He writes:

CHINESE LESSON

★ HAVING seen the national team of the People's Republic of China recently, I must commend them on their sportsmanship. Although their results were not good, I think British football can learn a lot from the Chinese players.

They lacked some skill, yet their courage, determination and enthusiasm were superb, way above the work-rate of First Division teams.

Managers of junior sides always ask for 100 per cent effort; even top League players don't run as much as the Chinese. Their manager got 110 per cent from them.

If England gave as much to their football, they would be World Champions.

● I wouldn't say any English side is lacking in work-rate. If anything, too much emphasis is put on this aspect. I agree, the Chinese did themselves credit with their approach to the game.

Wilkins

controversy

GOOD luck to Ray Wilkins at Manchester United. As a Chelsea fan I wish him all the best. Some Stamford Bridge supporters are bemoaning his departure ... Ray's lack of loyalty and earning more money.

Ray remained at Chelsea as long as possible and joined United to further his career, which would not have been possible had he remained with Chelsea.

JOSEPH STANGER,
SUMMERTOWN

I WAS very disappointed Ray Wilkins left Chelsea. He didn't want to play in Division Two, but this hasn't made any difference to West Ham's Trevor Brooking, still an automatic choice for England.

Why didn't Ray stay at Stamford Bridge to help the Chelsea babes fight back to Division One?

DAVID ASH,
CATFORD

● In fairness, Ray is seven years younger than Brooking and has most of his career ahead of him, while Trevor has had most of his. I also get the impression Chelsea were pleased to get the money they so desperately need.



More soccer

WITH so many outstanding players around at the moment (they must be because of all the big fees), I feel we should get more value for money from them, so I propose matches are extended to 120 minutes. It is the fans who are footing these ridiculous fees, so we're entitled to see more of these stars.

GREGORY WATTS,
WIRKSWORTH

● There are some games I've seen that should have been cut by 30 minutes, not extended.

Walking adverts

I'M an admirer of Liverpool, but I can't condone their decision to be sponsored by Hitachi. I'd have thought that British footballers had more pride than to become walking adverts. It's not as if Liverpool need the money.

It wouldn't be so bad if the sponsors were a sports firm ... but a Japanese hi-fi company? Who's going to sponsor the little clubs?

WILLIAM COOK,
HOYLAKE

● Liverpool, who didn't have a good run in Europe last year, DID need the money, just as every club needs extra cash. If sponsors can make our soccer healthier, as they have in, say, West Germany, then they are welcome and clubs at all levels will, I'm sure, find backing.

Scottish 'keepers

ON the question of Scottish goalkeepers, (SHOOT, August 25th), I think that there is a definite shortage of those who can be classed in the top bracket. The fact Alan Rough (left) is still with Partick Thistle, and Peter Bonetti can break

into Premier Division football without even a practice game, shows the level of Scottish 'keepers.

Of the ten 'keepers in the Premier Division, none of them can be classed along with many in the English League. Scotland has a goalkeeper problem. So the answer to the question "Are they all that bad?" must unfortunately be a decisive "YES".

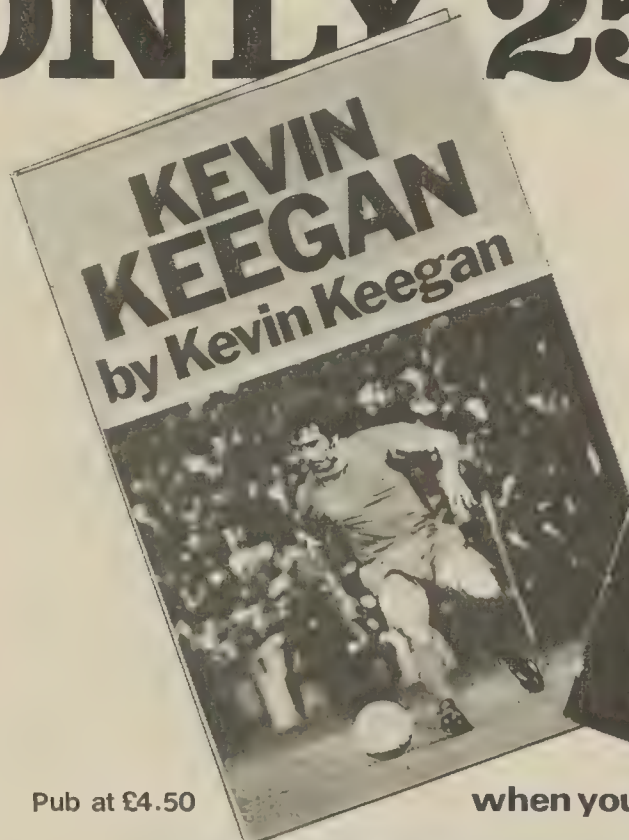
GRAEME STEWART,
ARBROATH

● It's surprising that Scotland has produced so many marvellous players, especially forwards; yet so few good goalkeepers. Do Scottish readers have any theories about this?



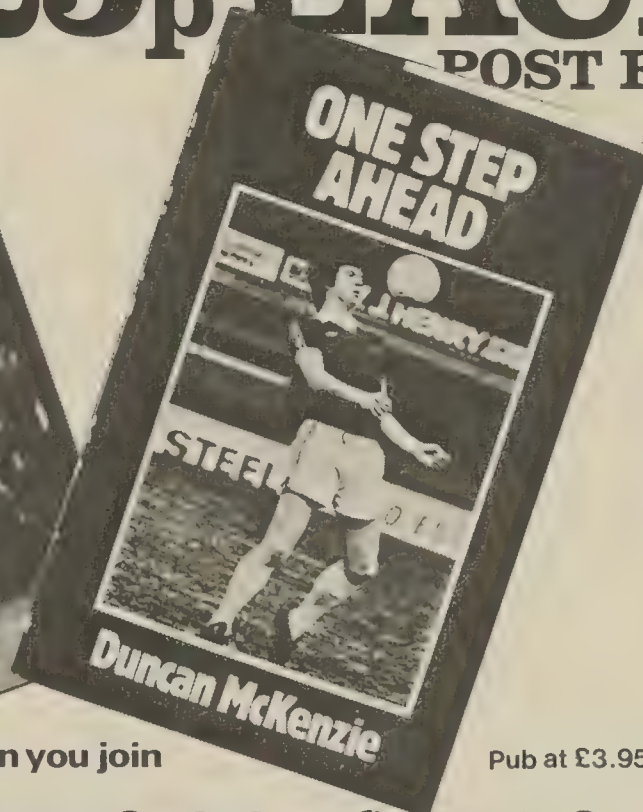
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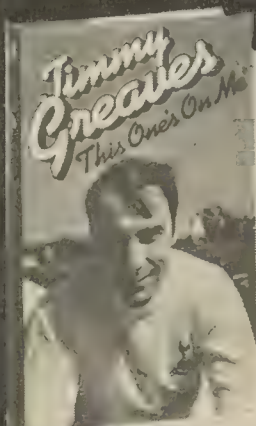
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A new career for MARSH... the end for BEST?

TWO of our greatest soccer personalities of recent years, Rodney Marsh and George Best, are bowing out of big-time soccer... but their reasons could hardly be more different. Marsh, 34, will have a testimonial for the Tampa Bay Rowdies on September 14th against, ironically, Best's club, the Fort Lauderdale Strikers. It will be an historic match, as Rodney is the first player in the United States to be granted a benefit game. Best won't be lining-up for the Strikers; he will be thousands of miles away, somewhere in England, having quit the US, in all too familiar circumstances last month.

At his peak, Best, 33, was the most gifted player ever to grace the Football League. Marsh may not have reached Best's lofty heights, but he was a character who gave our soccer colour and controversy, the lifeblood of the game.

Both players left for the North American Soccer League in 1976 after a brief show-biz type association with Fulham. During his four seasons with the Rowdies, Marsh has become as popular at Tampa as Best was at United. Marsh has

thrilled the fans on the field, while off it he has worked hard to promote the club.

The Rowdies' attendances have risen from 10,000 to over 30,000 and everyone at the club from owner George Strawbridge to the youngest supporter will tell you the main reason for the soccer interest is the man they call Sir Rodney.

In his four years with the Los Angeles Aztecs and the Fort Lauderdale Strikers, Best has achieved little, in comparison. When he's put his mind to it, he has been brilliant, working non-stop in midfield and giving 100 per cent. Yet while the Americans love a controversial star, Bestie went too far. He should be one of the richest sportsmen in the world, but the seemingly self-destructive streak in him has cost him his career, and possibly, his marriage, sadly.

Best has always walked away from problems, rather than staying to face them. Following his umpteenth walk-out, he left the Strikers after becoming frustrated with the coach, Ron Newman. The impression is that Best would be

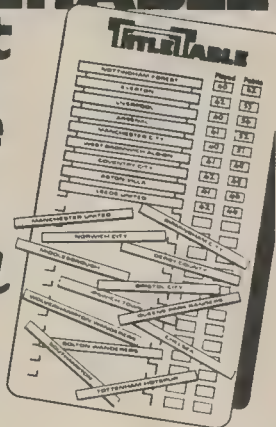


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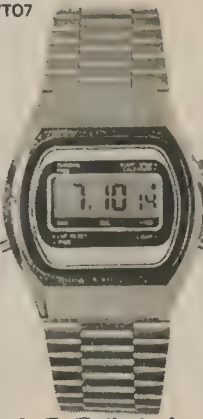
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willing to play for the Strikers again next year . . . under a different coach.

Marsh can look forward to stepping up to be a coach in the NASL, possibly with Philadelphia Fury. He is earning more money than at any time in his career and when asked about his salary replied, typically, that it was "in excess of five thousand dollars a year." His testimonial should attract a crowd of around 35,000; the break-even figure is 8,000 and no one in Tampa will begrudge Rodney a cent.

The announcement that he was to retire stunned the city. Rodney WAS the Rowdies . . . the Rowdies without Rodney was unthinkable. He said: "This is a very sad day for me. I could have played for another year. Physically and mentally I'm very strong. But I'd rather people say 'why now?' than 'why not now?' in the future. I'm at the peak of my profession and the time is right."

Marsh paid tribute to his wife and family and the Rowdies fans for the support . . . "at times they've carried me on and I can't thank them enough." The Press, being the Press, looked for ulterior motives, but there were none. Like the winning gambler who quits while he's ahead, Marsh wanted to retire as a hero, not a one-time hero as George is.

Perhaps we should be grateful for those golden years when Best and Manchester United played a brand of football not seen since. Best never had the rewards his talents deserved, but in the end it is difficult to feel too sorry for him.

Time after time he has let people down. Even so, it is a fact that Best

is an immensely likeable person, with a quick wit and flashing smile. His immediate plans are to finish the book he started in Los Angeles. He is writing it himself, long-hand with no professional help. George has allowed his name to be associated with some rather meaningless books in the past, but this time, in a more reserved mood, he is keen to put on paper exactly how he feels about even the most personal of things. Having spent four days with him and flown back to England with George I was surprised at the warmth and depth of his writing and if the book is ever published, others will be, too.

George was fit and tanned and

A sight we may never see again . . .

George Best in action for the Fort Lauderdale Strikers.

George walked out on the club after

becoming disillusioned with coach Ron Newman and probably won't return — at least, while Newman is there. Bestie is now living in England, virtually out of soccer. Best says:

"I'm far from washed-up. I'm definitely coming back to England. As soon as I get my legal problems with Fulham sorted out, I'll play League soccer again."



Rodney, the Rowdie in action for Tampa. Since leaving England for the Florida club, Marsh has reached heights he could not achieve in England. The Tampa fans call him Sir Rodney and his retirement was a sad blow for the Rowdies. Rodney is sure to have a bumper crowd for his benefit game, the first of its kind for a sportsman in the United States.

looking forward to meeting up again with his wife, Angela, in the near future. There is a chance he will play in Saudi Arabia this winter, although as Fulham still hold his registration there may be problems.

Marsh has no desires to return to England. "I agree the First Division is the only place to play. I also accept players are ambitious and keen to prove themselves and to them this is more important than money. On the other hand, the NASL will give a player the sort of recognition and rewards the Football League can't. Name me one player in the past ten years who's had all he really deserved from the game."

"I've played for some good clubs, at Wembley, and for my country, but the four years in Tampa have been the happiest of my career. I told Alan Ball I would have given all the rest up to have been here earlier. Ballie couldn't understand this, but what I've achieved here has been far more fulfilling."

Marsh will be a successful coach, I'm sure. He talks about the game with the same feeling, enthusiasm and knowledge as Terry Venables, the best young manager in England. Just as T.V. has been a hit with Palace, Marsh will go the same way on the other side of the Atlantic.

Rodney has been frustrated by coaches in the past; now he will be in the firing line. "My team will be an exciting one. I shall also be my own man, not skipping responsibility."

His easy-going style makes him a natural for television and he has assisted with match commentaries this season in America. On phone-in shows, the Marsh gift-of-the-gab ensures a combination of humour and honesty; he refuses to give "the right answer" to anyone. When asked on a recent radio programme about his substitution in one game, he replied: "Players have their off-nights and coaches do, too. I think Gordon Jago was wrong to bring me off and the exchange didn't work." A far cry from the "no comment" most Football League players would have given.

He loves the Rowdies' supporters and never refuses an autograph or a photographer.

Marsh and Best represent an era of happy soccer in England, when the unexpected was the expected and a sensational headline never far away. Rodney will continue to make headlines of the right kind, and let's hope that George can sort himself out and come back just one more time to go out, eventually, in a similar way to Marsh.

CHRIS DAVIES



ANYONE who earns the nickname 'Roy of the Rovers' must be that little bit special. John MacDonald, Rangers' super babe, is that bit special.

MacDonald won that particular tag from his Ibrox team-mates last season after his mesmerising displays in training. His colleagues were enthusiastic about the teenager and international stalwart Sandy Jardine even had to take the boy aside and tell him fellow professionals did not at all enjoy having the ball stuck through their legs.

'Nutmegging,' was just one of his ploys in practice matches.

"The boy really has got it all," says Jardine. "No one fancies playing against him in training. He has shoved the ball through my legs a couple of times. He does it for a joke, but sometimes it is hard to see the funny side of it when everyone is laughing at you!"

A host of clubs chased MacDonald when he was a

THREE years ago the names of Frank McGarvey, Tony Fitzpatrick, Gregor Stevens and Eamonn Bannon were little known. Yet that quartet have left Scottish League football recently for around £1 million in transfer fees. They are the latest in a long line of Scottish youngsters to make the grade — and head South.

But who are the stars of the future, the youngsters set to make a breakthrough this season?

SHOOT puts the spotlight on some of the best of the emerging talent North of the border. Like . . .

Jamie Doyle.



JAMIE DOYLE

schoolboy in the sprawling Glasgow council estate of Drumchapel — a famous breeding ground for players such as Danny McGrain (Celtic) and Andy Gray among others.

Manchester United, Liverpool, Birmingham and even Celtic were linked with the young winger, but he was destined for Ibrox when Rangers persuaded him to sign.

MacDonald says little off the field. He stays with his family and has just bought himself an 'N' registration Vauxhall car. He shuns the bright lights and gives the impression that he is slightly bedazzled by all that has happened to him in the past three years.

One minute he was an unknown, trying to keep

his place in the school team, the next he was on the wanted list of just about every major team in Britain. He has already won a Cup medal at famous old Hampden with a graceful, purposeful display against Celtic in the Drybrough Cup Final before the official kick-off to the season.

Celtic actually started the game at electrifying pace and hammered down relentlessly on Peter McCloy's goal.

Then MacDonald stepped in, drifting past one Celtic challenge, slipping a pass to Davie Cooper, and getting it back before stroking the ball wide of Peter Latchford.

That goal settled Rangers and they eventually won 3-1 with another two wonder goals from

Jardine and Cooper. MacDonald played part that afternoon.

MacDonald talks rarely of his Ibrox boss John Greig to

"The lad's got talent," says Greig for everyone to see. It's a get every encouragement a ability.

"He won't be rushed, though. I will be pushed here at Ibrox until we are abso. very certain he can handle it. But he has got a bright future, though, if he keeps up his progress."

Greig's words are coated in caution. He has seen youngsters come and go, their promise being buried under an avalanche of praise that has gone straight

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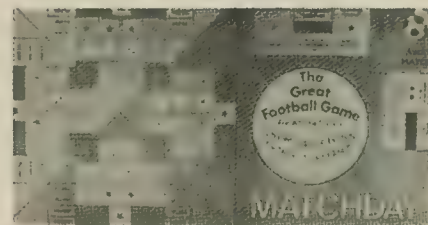
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to their heads. That will not be allowed to happen to John MacDonald.

Neither will it happen for Charlie Nicholas, the bright boy of Rangers' deadly rivals Celtic. Like MacDonald, he is an attacker with natural goalscoring ability.

He scored a mountain of goals for the Celtic Boys' Club before being called up at the start of the season by Parkhead manager Billy McNeill and big things are expected of the 16-year-old.

McNeill, like Greig, will pick and choose the games in which Nicholas plays in the first team. He gave him an outing in a friendly against Airdrie at Broomfield and the boy immediately repaid the compliment by scoring.

On the day Celtic were going down to Rangers in the Drybrough Cup Final, McNeill sent a strong team through to Stair Park for a match against Stranraer. Celtic won 4-1 . . . and Nicholas notched a hat-trick.

the Partick Thistle youngster who frightens his boss



McNeill was sufficiently impressed by the reports to play the youngster against Queen's Park in the Quarter-Final of the Glasgow Cup recently and yet again the youngster was on the mark.

It was a goal so typical of a penalty-box poacher. Tom McAdam powered in a header from a Davie Provan corner-kick and the Hampden 'keeper could only push the ball away. Before he or his teammates had time to recover Nicholas was in like a whippet to force the ball over the line. His first goal at Hampden. There should be many more!

"Charlie is just one of the young boys I hope to bring into the team in the future," says McNeill. "We've got some good youngsters here and I've been impressed so far by what I've seen."

"It's up to them to push for that first team place. No one is guaranteed a top team spot at Parkhead."

Nicholas does not believe in over-doing the fancy stuff. He sniffs out goals in the manner of Jimmy Greaves or Denis Law.

Another youngster who should finish the season with an impressive haul of goals is Motherwell's Willie Irvine, a forward of the highest calibre who, alas, will be missing to fans of the Premier Division.

Irvine, however, hopes to be parading his skills in the Top Ten next season along with his Fir Park colleagues. He is a stylish performer, but can mix it with the hardest defenders when the occasion arises.



Colin Campbell of Hibs is brave in search of goals. Colin (on his knees) stoops to head past St. Mirren 'keeper.

Ally MacLeod bought him from Alloa last season when 'Well were doomed to relegation. Irvine came into the team at a depressing time, but still his ability shone through the greyness that had enveloped Fir Park.

When Motherwell shocked Rangers with a 2-0 victory near the end of the term, Irvine was the man who stole the headlines. He drifted in and out of the Rangers rearguard with bewildering ease and they just could not pick him up.

He created danger every time he was on the ball and the bad news for opponents is that Irvine admits: "I'm still learning this game. I know I've still got an awful lot to learn."

Those words must spread alarm among defenders who have struggled to curb Irvine's genius.

In this day of soaring transfer fees, MacLeod must be congratulated that he bought Irvine and Bobby Carberry from Alloa for only £35,000.

Back in the Premier, Hibs fans are fortunate to have Colin Campbell playing for their favourites.

Campbell is an up-and-at-'em type of forward, who is not afraid to go in where only the brave go in search of goals and glory. In fact, the player was almost seriously injured even before this season started in earnest.

Hibs were playing Manchester City in the Skol tournament at Tynecastle, home of Hearts who were in the same competition, when a high ball was pumped into the City goalmouth.

Hook

Bulky Joe Corrigan left his line and the majority of forwards would have left the 50-50 ball to the 'keeper. Not Campbell. He threw himself at the ball and Corrigan swung a right hook. The ball drifted harmlessly wide, but Corrigan caught Campbell full in the face and the Hibs striker went down as if pole-axed. In fact, only the quick thinking of one of City's backroom staff prevented a dazed Campbell from swallowing his tongue!

Thankfully, the player has fully recovered . . . and is still challenging for those 50-50 high balls. The rewards of courage are great . . . Campbell's turn will surely come.

Another brave and courageous competitor is Partick Thistle's dynamic bundle of energy Jamie Doyle, whose bustling style is so similar to that of Nottingham Forest's £400,000 Scot Asa Hartford.

Doyle is an explosive youngster, always in the thick of the action, always wanting to be involved, always searching for the ball and backing up colleagues in trouble.

But it would be wrong to believe he is all stamina and no skill. Doyle's talent can match the best and when it comes to popping-up and knocking in a few goals he can do that, too.

Last season fans who watched the 1-1 Premier Division draw between St. Mirren and Partick Thistle at Love Street were treated to a gem of a goal from Doyle.

The Saints were winning 1-0 with a goal from Frank McGarvey, now with Liverpool, of course, when, with only a few minutes to go, Bobby Houston floated over a delicate cross from the right touchline. It swung away from the Saints defenders and there was Doyle racing in to take off in spectacular action to volley the ball first-time from

25 yards high past the startled and helpless Billy Thomson.

"You've got to be impressed by this lad," enthuses Firhill boss Bertie Auld. "He is so ambitious and confident that he frightens me! He'll be a great player . . . mark my words."

Bertie Auld's former Celtic team-mate Tommy Gemmell, now the Dundee boss, is equally enthusiastic about his young full-back Stewart Turnbull.

"He is so mature," says Gemmell. "It's difficult to believe he is still a youngster when you see him out there in the thick of the action and looking so cool and composed."

"I'm convinced he will play for Scotland some day. In fact, I think the day when he gets an Under-21 cap at least cannot be that far away."

Those, then, are just some of the young jewels being put on display for Scottish fans this season. Their grace and elegance will be well appreciated . . . there is nothing more certain than that.

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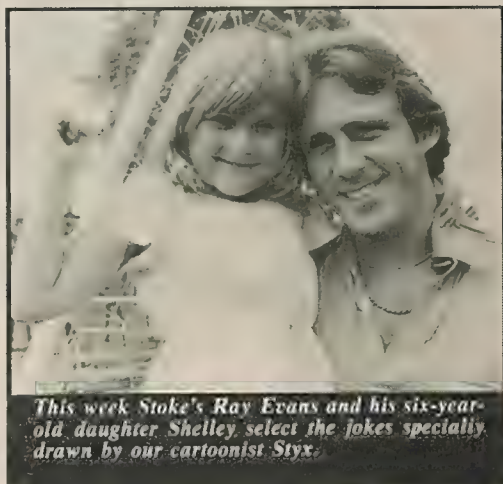
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"That's what I call close marking"



"And when I try to argue with him — he blows his whistle"



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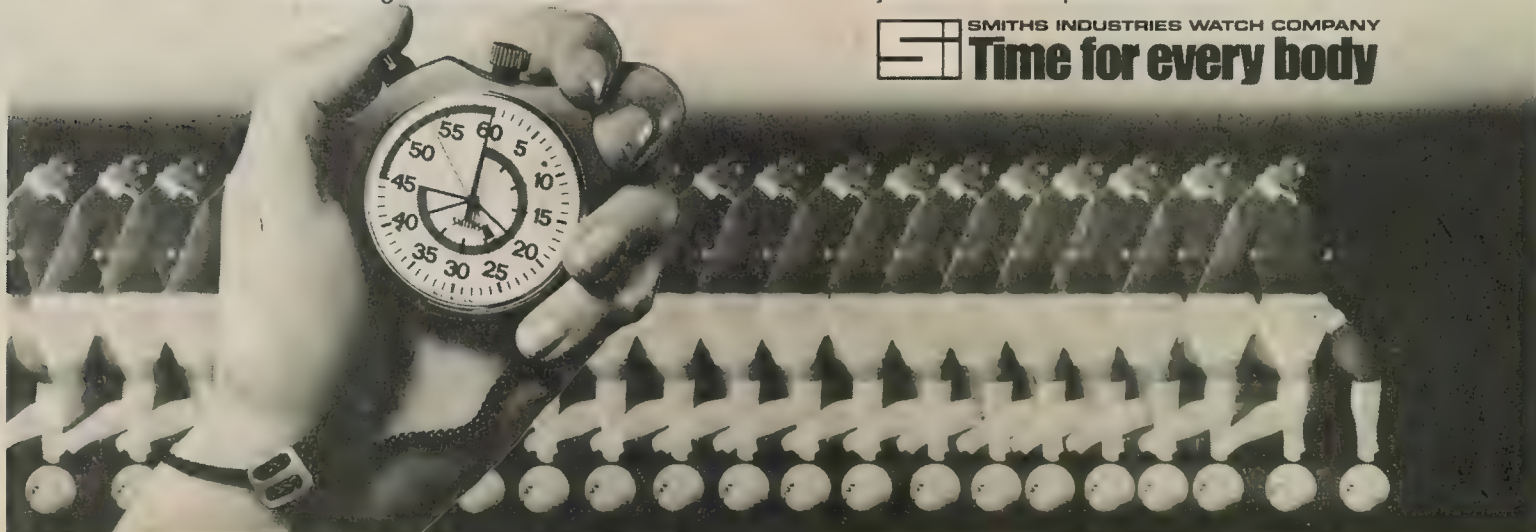
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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

BREEZY BRIGHTON ON THE MOVE



Peter Ward

WHETHER Brighton can do what a number of previous First Division newcomers have failed to do and survive their first season in the top flight is one of the most intriguing questions of the new League season, especially after such a disappointing start, losing 4-0 at home to Arsenal, 2-1 at Aston Villa and 3-2 at Man. City.

Should they manage to stay up then their dynamic chairman, Mike Bamber, could well think that his next ambition of bringing European football to the Sussex coast is not so far away.

Mr. Bamber typifies the enthusiasm for what is the club's most exciting season in its 79-year history when he says: "Many fans had never seen a First Division

match until this season. Suddenly the whole town's alive and buzzing at the thought of Manchester United; Liverpool; Leeds and Nottingham Forest coming down here. They've suddenly realised the club is in the best Division in the world."

Already Mr Bamber is doing all he can to improve the Goldstone Ground, which he openly admits was well below Second Division standards. Brighton spent £30,000 in the summer in putting up a temporary stand to accommodate another 1,000 people and have the pitch relaid.

But Mr. Bamber is really thinking very much on the long term future of the club. Hence one of his top priorities being to find a site which would eventually become a new home for Brighton.

"The frightening thing about such a project is the escalation of building costs, which increase by 25 per cent each year. If you want to build a stadium in 1979 it will

cost £7m and the longer it takes to erect the more chance of it being out of everyone's reach when completed," he said.

Mr. Bamber does have a site in mind but quickly points out a number of snags to overcome.

"Both Brighton and Hove Councils are being very co-operative to

us. Now it's just a matter of finance. The Government's restrictions in stopping councils spending a lot of money hasn't helped and I'm hoping to develop an out of town shopping centre whose profits would finance the cost of a new sports stadium, which has always been our aim."

At the moment Mr Bamber's eyes are fixed heavily on Waterhall — about two miles from the Goldstone and which is the club's current training ground.

Being on the outside of the town on the edge of the A27 London-Brighton road and (when it is completed) the new M27 only a stone's throw away, would help prevent some of the visiting supporters coming into the town, while Mr. Bamber has had an assurance from British Rail that they would build a station if such a project became a reality.

For the moment Mr. Bamber has to face the problem of what could prove to be trying to fit a quart into a pint sized jug. Brighton's new status has inevitably resulted in a large rush for season tickets.

Followed

"While our first priority is to the loyal supporters who have followed us through thick and thin over the years they will have to be at the ground at 12.30 on match days to be sure of getting in instead of leaving it until half an hour before the start," he stressed.

But on paper the immediate prospect and results suggest that Brighton may well struggle. Only four players have experienced the First Division and close season spending of £412,000 has only brought three players of whom only John Gregory has played in the top flight.

Gregory, along with Martin Chivers, Gerry Ryan, Chris Cattlin and the transfer listed Graham Moseley are the only members of the side who have played First Division football — which suggests that lack of experience may well prove to be Brighton's biggest problem.

It may also be the reason why both chairman and manager are realistic enough to admit that they would gladly settle for a place in mid-table this season.

"That doesn't mean I see Brighton becoming just another First Division club," stressed boss Alan Mullery. "Obviously Europe is my

continued on page 30



Brighton's talented Mark Lawrenson.



Manager Alan Mullery (above, left). Arsenal (Frank Stapleton, centre) handed Brighton a 4-0 drubbing on the season's opening day.





BACK ROW (left to right): Glen Wilson (equipment man), Teddy Maybank, Malcolm Poskett, Mark Lawrenson, Martin Chivers, Giles Stille, Mike Yaxley (physio).
 MIDDLE ROW: Ken Craggs (asst. manager), Steve Foster, Andy Rollings, Graham Moseley, Eric Steele, Gary Williams, John Gregory, Gerry Ryan, George Aitken (coach).
 FRONT ROW: Paul Clark, Peter Sayer, Brian Horton, Alan Mullery (manager), Peter O'Sullivan, Peter Ward and Mick Kerlake.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Continued

long term aim which may sound pie in the sky at the moment but you can't simply stabilise as there are no easy pickings in the First, which is why we must win as many matches as possible and not lose more than we have to."

But Mullery has expressed the inevitable fear of a disastrous start and the sweet taste of success he has had in taking the club from the obscurity of the Third Division to the First in three seasons turning sour.

"The worst thing that could happen would be for us not to improve on our start and fail to win a game in our first ten matches and find ourselves into November facing Liverpool, Nottingham Forest and West Brom and not having players to get us out of trouble," he said.

For one of Mullery's more experienced players, Chris Cattlin, the season could prove to be a case of history repeating itself.

As a member of the Coventry side who began life in the First Division Cattlin believes that while Brighton may lack the experience Coventry had then, they certainly have the character to survive and eventually become an established side in the big League.

"You've only got to look back to last season and the way we picked ourselves up after just missing out on promotion the previous year whereas Blackburn, who finished fifth were relegated.



Captain Brian Horton

"I'm certain that if we come through the first seven months, which are bound to be tough, then our shrewd management can start building the sort of foundation which Bobby Robson has done at Ipswich," said Cattlin, who is likely to struggle to hold a first team place this season.

Even before Brighton had cut their First Division teeth against opposition such as Arsenal, Manchester City and Aston Villa, they

had a fairly good idea of the sort of opposition to expect as Mullery based his pre-season plans on comparing what Brighton were like two years ago with the three promoted sides — Bolton, Southampton and Tottenham.

"That emphasises our immediate task when you remember that we were as good as them then and last season Southampton and Tottenham did well while Bolton were in the bot-

tom six.

"We've improved on what we were like then but they've got the experience which makes it vital that we learn — and fast," he stressed.

At the beginning of this year, the forward thinking Mr. Bamber announced Brighton would be offering ten year contracts to key players who figured prominently in the club's long term plans.

By the same token Messrs Bamber and Mullery expect total commitment for Brighton from their players and stuck to their word — albeit reluctantly — by agreeing to the transfer request of Peter Ward (one of the players offered a long term contract) a month before the season started.

The fact only a few tentative inquiries were received for Ward may have prompted him to come to his senses and agree to stay at the club... a decision reached on the eve of the new season.

With a chairman who barely knows the meaning of failure and a manager who admits to being the world's worst loser, Brighton could well surprise those who have already written them off before we are a month into the season.

While enthusiasm more than compensates for inexperience, time alone will tell whether big spending soon becomes a necessity or whether come next May, Mr. Bamber's only disappointment will be that it had not been possible to replace an obsolete Pullman Carriage on the Supporters' train.

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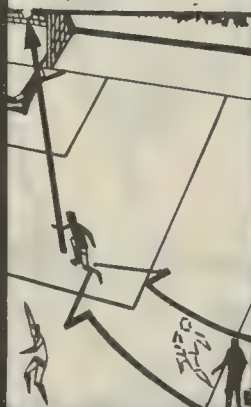
YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

1 From a fierce header the ball strikes the crossbar, bounces down on to a goal-line and spins back into play. Should you (a) award a goal, (b) a goal-kick or (c) take no action?



2 A player receiving treatment runs on without a signal and collects the ball in an offside position and scores. What should you do after cautioning the player? Award: (a) a goal or (b) a free-kick?



3 Two defenders, in their own penalty-area 'sandwich' an opponent when he is playing the ball. Should you: (a) award a penalty, (b) drop the ball, or (c) award an indirect free-kick?



4 After winning the F.A. Cup Final the captain of the successful team asks you for permission to present the match ball to the player who scored the winning goal. Should you give the ball to the captain?



5 To obtain a better grip on an icy pitch a player wants to wear running shoes with spikes. Should you allow this?

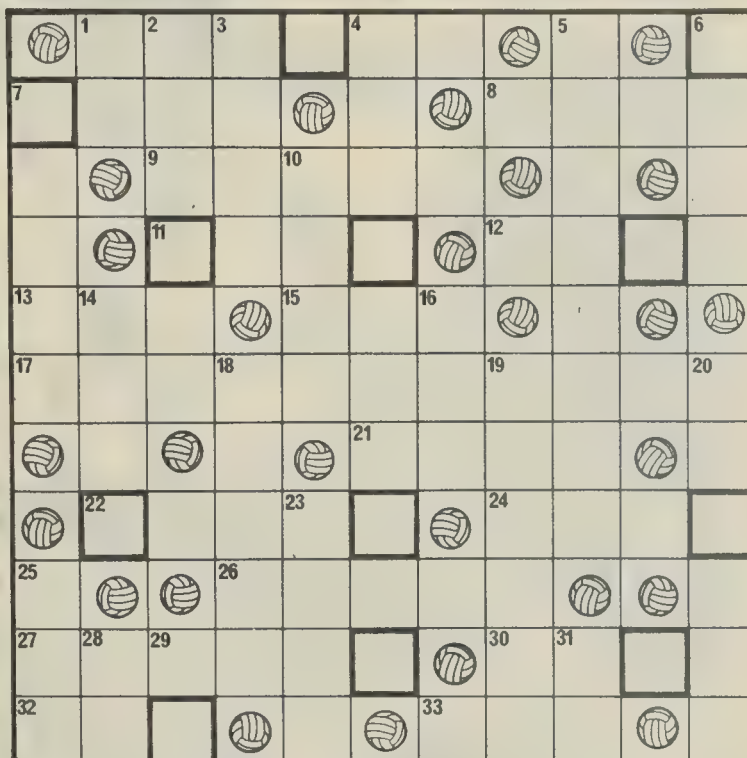


ANSWERS

1 Take no action (c). 2 A free-kick (b). 3 Award a penalty (a). 4 No. 1 refereed the F.A. Cup Final between Manchester United and Southampton. My job at the conclusion of the match was to bring the ball back to the dressing room. I did have a little problem before going up to be presented with my medal by the Queen. I gave the match ball to my reserve linesman to hold and then could not find him until we went back to the dressing room. 5 When we had had bad weather last season a number of sporting companies brought new types of football boots on to the market, but as referees we have to watch very carefully that the boots are not dangerous. If they are the player must not be allowed on the field.

Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a Manchester United defender. Answers on page 50.



ACROSS:—

- (1) One of Luton Town's colours.
- (7) B---kville -ark (Falkirk). Cut short from the missing letters.
- (8) As an example, it denotes no score.
- (9) — Vue Ground, Doncaster Rovers.
- (11) Person or player much admired, for instance.
- (12) If this is on the ball it is difficult to control.
- (13) ---s Park, home of Dundee.
- (15) Take three letters from Aston Villa to give "by way of".
- (17) Ground of Dunfermline Athletic. (4, 3 & 4)
- (21) The aim of the game!
- (22) Descriptive of a junior international team, perhaps.
- (24) --in- -oad (Manchester City). The omissions in reverse.
- (26) Blackboard marker.
- (27) National song sung before an international match, for example.
- (30) Partick Th--t-- from Firhill Park.
- (32) B---ham Crescent (York City). The missing letters turned about.
- (33) Garry S---ley (Everton). Insert from the missing letters.

DOWN:—

- (1) Duncan F--bes of Norwich City.
- (2) Birds associated with the nicknames of a number of English clubs.
- (3) H-m---n Park, Glasgow. Mimicked from the missing letters.
- (4) For whom Brian Yeo was League top scorer in 1973/74 with 31 goals.
- (5) Preston North End's ground.
- (6) — Toshack of Swansea & Wales.
- (7) Scottish club from Shawfield Stadium.
- (10) — Street ground of St. Mirren.
- (14) Not a difficult shout from the crowd during a one-sided game!
- (16) -lfre-- di Stefano. European Footballer of the Year, 1957 and 1959.
- (18) The ball goes into it when out of play.
- (19) Derek —, Wolves defender.
- (20) Steve —, Crystal Palace midfielder.
- (23) Sou----d United, "The Shrimpers".
- (25) Short forename of "Footballer of the Year", 1952/53.
- (28) Ba-g-r. What completes the Irish League club?
- (29) Ian Bri-t-n of Chelsea.
- (31) — Gallen; European club.

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'TRAITOR'—

Hearts fans accuse Hibs' new signing



JIM BROWN

think I was finished, though. Far from it. I never lost faith in my own ability. I knew I could still play."

One man who very definitely agreed with non-stop Brown was Hibs manager Eddie Turnbull who had been impressed by the player's industry and invention during derby games. Brown always gives 100 per cent. His dedication is beyond reproach.

"I believe in giving everything out there on the pitch," he says. "I admire fabulous players with all the gifts, of course, but my favourite players are the ones who quietly get on with their job."

"Players such as John Greig, when he was the Rangers skipper. That's the type of player I try to be. Greig was dedicated to Rangers and always tried to lead by inspiration."

Tenacity

A few years ago when Hearts were going through a bad patch he provided the talent and the tenacity, combining both jobs in his soccer role, to keep the team afloat.

Danger was ahead for Hearts and there was little Brown could do to stop the rot.

Now, though, he is determined to give his all for Hibs. Some Hearts fans are calling him a 'traitor', but that does not worry Brown, who knows all about the fanatical rivalry in Edinburgh between both sets of fans.

Instead of fighting with Hearts to get them into a challenging position in the First Division, he will be providing the backbone in Hibs' challenge for the Premier Division title.

"My future is with Hibs," he says firmly. "They have given me this chance and I aim to take it."

It would be difficult to argue a case for a player to leave a club and sign for a rival outfit.

Would Danny McGrain be welcomed at Ibrox? What sort of reception would Derek Johnstone get at Parkhead? Their receptions would be interesting. Both players would immediately find out what it was like to be treated with a high degree of suspicion.

However, one player in Scotland might get away with such an outrageous action — Jim Brown, of Hibernian.

Brown is a special case, of course. He played all his career with Hearts, captained the team, provided the inspiration and became the idol of the Tynecastle fans. Until the end of last season, that is . . .

"Of course I was disappointed to be freed by manager Willie Ormond," says the versatile Brown, who is out to prove the relegated Edinburgh team were a trifle hasty in discarding his talents.

"When I collected my boots for the last time and left the ground it was hard to believe I wouldn't be back the following day for training."

"It was a wrench saying farewell to all my former team-mates. I didn't

YOU can love him. You can hate him. You can even love to hate him. Ally MacLeod, Motherwell manager, is seldom out of the news.

His main ambition is to lift the Fir Park side back into the Premier Division after the despair and dejection of last season's fall from grace into the First Division.

It's hard for Ally MacLeod to accept relegation, and now he is working quietly and efficiently to restore morale and success at Motherwell.

Fir Park was a disaster area last season. It saddened MacLeod to read that Motherwell were the worst team ever to play in the Premier Division.

An exaggeration perhaps but former St Mirren striker Frank McGarvey, now at Liverpool, was not joking when he scored a hat-trick against Motherwell and said: "They



ALLY MacLEOD

— no longer promising success

were terrible."

Amid the glare of publicity and the laughter of the people who were glad to see MacLeod fall flat on his famous nose, he decided to get on with his job in an utterly professional way.

He's made a few enemies in his brief stint at Fir Park. There was no messing about when he looked at his first team pool a couple of weeks after taking over from the deposed Roger Hynd and immediately put 12 players up for sale.

One of the players he didn't put on the transfer market was sweeper Gregor Stevens, but he sold him anyway when Leicester City came in with a £175,000 bid!

Willie Pettigrew wasn't listed, either, and that slightly bamboozled the striker who said: "It's been made clear to me that if I don't play for Motherwell I won't play for anyone. Thankfully, I got the chance with Dundee United."

MacLeod has been bombarded by his own resurrected quotes. He promised to win the World Cup for Scotland, but that didn't quite come off. He quit the job after being given a vote of confidence. He took over his old club Ayr United and didn't even stay long enough for his name to be printed on the manager's door.

He accepted Motherwell's offer to try to prevent their slide and he said at

the time: "I still want to manage a club who will win the Premier Division."

MacLeod, though, couldn't stop the rot at Fir Park. Now he faces a major challenge in the coming months.

The critics had a field day last season as disaster struck at MacLeod's image. The Tartan Army became the Tattered Army and the fans felt they had been let down by MacLeod.

Understandably, MacLeod has promised nothing this season. He has realised that people in soccer can be cruel. He came back from Argentina muttering: "At least I know now who my real friends are." The emphasis was on the word *real*.

But he is still a showman. He still wants respect. He is still ambitious. And, to be fair, he moved into the hottest hot seat in the game when he took over at Motherwell.

No one needed a college education to realise that Motherwell were hurtling with amazing speed into oblivion. MacLeod's job is to halt that rush for obscurity and build a side for the future.

Will he have the last laugh with the side who were regarded as such a bad joke last season? The final laugh could be on his critics!

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Consecutive Games

Who holds the record for the most consecutive Football League appearances?

FRANCIS LAITY,
PENZANCE

● A centre-half named Harold Bell holds that one, Francis.

From the opening game of 1946-47 — the first post-war season — he didn't miss a Third Division (North) match for Tranmere Rovers until he was dropped for the game against Gateshead on 30th August, 1955.

That meant a total of 401 consecutive League games — and, if you include F.A. and other Cup-ties as well, Bell's first team total goes up to 459.

All told, by the time he retired in 1961, he'd totted-up 595 League games — all for Tranmere.

Munich

Can you tell me of any major games between my two local clubs — Bayern Munich and TSV 1860 Munich — and top English sides?

GARETH LOOKER,
WEST GERMANY

● Well, of course, they've met a few times in European games. Gareth — including two Finals.

In 1965, West Ham beat 1860 by 2-0 in a thrilling Cup-Winners' Cup Final at Wembley.

Then, ten years later, Bayern beat Leeds 2-0 in a controversial Champions Cup Final in Paris.

At other times, both Munich clubs have met Liverpool, and Bayern have also been paired with Coventry

SHORT PASSES

Manchester City's team which beat Gornik Zabrze 2-1 in the 1970 Cup-Winners' Cup Final was: Corrigan, Book, Pardoe, Doyle, Booth, Dakes, Heslop, Lee, Young, Bell, Towers.

(PER LUNGGREN, Sweden)
Coventry's record win is 9-0 (v. Bristol City; Div 3 South; 28th April, 1934); their heaviest defeat is 2-10 (v. Norwich; Div 3 South; 15th March, 1930).

(MARK WARD, Coventry)
World record soccer gate is 199,854 — Brazil v. Uruguay (World Cup; Maracana Stadium, Rio de Janeiro; 16th July, 1950).

(MATTHEW WALDEN, Wrexham)

BRAZIL beat Argentina 2-1 in the Maracanã, but neither team managed to leave a convincing impression. What's more, they were both trailing behind Bolivia in the America Cup. Bolivia managed to beat them both 2-1 in La Paz.

Brazil's new star, Sócrates, couldn't play (he was also absent from the game with Bolivia). Neither could Falcão and the absence of these two midfield players in the game last month damaged the new "loose angle" tactical system Cláudio Coutinho has devised for Brazil.

Argentina fielded what manager César Menotti has described as his "new team", complete with star Diego Maradona, who originally was supposed to stay away from the America Cup and devote himself to training with the Junior Team that is going to take part in the Junior World Cup in Japan. But the defeat by Bolivia (coupled with the defeat by the Rest of the World) made Menotti realise that he couldn't go on losing and still maintain his credibility as a manager with the Argentinian public.

But, not withstanding Maradona, Zico (right) was the best player of the night. He scored after only two minutes and made the winning goal for outside-right Tita to score in the second-half. Argentina had equalised in the first half, through Coscia.

There is one point where Brazil and Argentina are strong allies now, though, and that is in opposing any more games in the altitude (more than 12,000ft) of La Paz. Both teams were decimated by altitude sickness and fell prey to Bolivian players of undis-

BOLIVIA BEAT ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL!



tinguished technique, but who could keep running all night in the rarified air.

Argentina arrived in La Paz on the eve of the game, but found their players had nose bleeds and couldn't sleep. Brazil decided to arrive only eight hours before kick-off, on the theory that, in the first 24 hours, the human body has a natural defence mechanism against altitude.

But on the way from the airport to the town centre (a trip that actually represents a drop of almost 1,000ft), several players, like Zico, Toninho, Nelinho and Edinho, vomited and had to be confined to their rooms. They couldn't even go to the stadium to watch the game!

Now the Brazilian and Argentinian FA's are to press with FIFA the motion that playing at altitude gives the home team an unfair advantage, insofar as one doesn't measure the ability to play football, but the ability to adapt to peculiar conditions.

And they also point out that, when the Bolivians come down from their mountains, they don't have any trouble in adapting to sea level conditions. In fact, it is much better for them, for they feel like they are playing inside a huge oxygen tent!

RESULTS

Bolivia 2, Argentina 1
Bolivia 2, Brazil 1
Brazil 2, Argentina 1
Brazil 2, Bolivia 0
Argentina 3, Bolivia 0
Argentina 2, Brazil 2

WORLD WIDE



compiled by
CHRIS DAVIES

CUP STOLEN

A group of unemployed steel workers caused a sensation in France when they stole the French Cup from the F.C. Nantes offices. The workers decided to hold the Cup "hostage" to attract attention to their plight and to persuade Cup-holders Nantes to arrange to play League-winners Strasbourg on their local ground. The steel workers gleefully paraded the Cup around the town, taking hundreds of photos, before handing it back to Nantes.

A survey amongst Bundesliga coaches showed that Hamburger SV are favourites to retain their West German crown. Thirteen coaches tipped HSV; two votes went to Bayern; one to VfB Stuttgart and one to 1.FC Cologne (by their own Henkes Weisweiler!). One coach had no opinion.

ONLY ONE...

WEST German fans are angry with the annual assessment of Bundesliga stars by the magazine Kicker. According to Kicker, there isn't a single West German player of world-star status. Seven players are "international class" with six foreign players of similar standing.

Kicker does, however, say the Bundesliga has ONE world-class star, but he's a foreigner. No prizes for guessing who, but his initials are K.K.

HERMANN Stessl was sacked by Austria Vienna and immediately signed a contract with AEK Athens. In his contract is a clause that stipulates he has six free return flights to Vienna each season.

Garrincha ill

GARRINCHA, the great Brazilian forward of the late 50's and 60's, was taken to hospital recently in a coma. Apparently he has been suffering from acute depression and hypertension. The main problem is his alcoholism. Garrincha could never handle his money, and the Brazilian F.A. held a benefit game for him (free of all taxes) a few years ago, but all the money was frittered away by Garrincha, who now is under the care of the Brazilian Legion of Aid, who are paying all hospital bills.

AJAX are happy with their summer dealings in the transfer market. They sold Englishman Ray Clarke to FC Bruges for £250,000 and replaced him with Dane Henning Jensen from Real Madrid for £150,000. Profit: £100,000.

FORMER Bayern Munich president Herr Neudecker invited Max Merkel to become their coach next season and he accepted, for £25,000. The Bayern players objected and Merkel didn't get the job, although he kept the £25,000. Later, Merkel was asked to coach Nuremberg and was offered a contract, which he accepted. Once again, Merkel met problems and didn't start the job and is suing the club for £85,000 compensation.

THREE top English international stars are now playing on the Continent... Laurie Cunningham (Real Madrid), Kevin Keegan (Hamburger SV) and Dave Watson (Werder Bremen). We shall be keeping you up-to-date with their progress during 1979/80 with regular reports and photos. So if you want to know how England's soccer exiles are faring, stay with World Wide.

TEAM WON 134-1!

HOW about this? A Yugoslav player recently complained to his local paper that their match report was inaccurate: they said he'd scored 40 (!) goals in a game when he claimed it was really 59.

This questionable feat was staged in the Ohrid region when two amateur clubs on the same number of points played their final games. One side won 88-0 and the other 134-1. However, the referee of the latter match "forgot" the time and in fact played 120 minutes before blowing for time.

Not surprisingly, all four teams involved have been taken out of the League and all officials suspended for life.

SURPRISE CHAMPIONS IN SOUTH AMERICA



OLIMPIA of Paraguay are the new South American Champions after their amazing win over Argentina's Boca Juniors in the Final of the Copa Libertadores.

Boca had won the title for the last two years and no Paraguayan side had ever been Champions, so the Argentinians travelled to Asuncion for the first-leg as red-hot favourites. But in the first minute of the game, a mistake by Boca stopper Mouzo let in Aquino who scored with a fierce drive. Twenty-five minutes later, Boca's eccentric goalkeeper Hugo 'El Loco' Gatti tried to head (!) away a free-kick and glanced the ball into his own net.

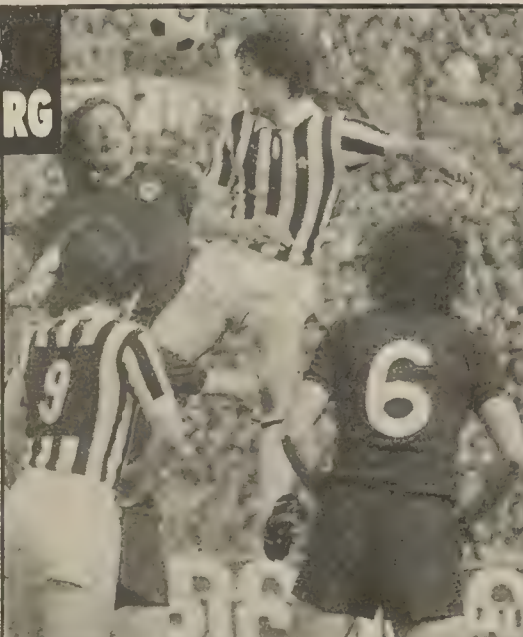
Olimpia's 2-0 win meant that they travelled to Buenos Aires for the return needing a draw to clinch the title — and that's exactly what they got: a 0-0 draw in a tough, bad-tempered brawl of a match in which two players from each side were sent-off and the crowd showered the Paraguayans with everything they could lay their hands on.

A million people lined the streets of Asuncion when the team made its triumphant return, while Boca were left to contemplate a disastrous season in which they've not only failed to retain their continental title but have also failed dismally at home.

● Olimpia, back row (from left): Solalinde, Parades, Kiese, Jiménez, Almeida, Piazza. Front row: Issasi, Torres, Villalba, Talavera, Aquino.

GOAL-ACES LUXEMBOURG

1. Luxembourg 3.31
2. Norway 3.28
3. West Germany... 3.15
4. East Germany... 3.07
5. Denmark 3.04
6. Switzerland... 3.04
7. France 3.00
8. Hungary 2.88
9. Holland 2.85
10. Finland 2.80
11. Austria 2.77
12. Belgium 2.71
13. Czechoslovakia 2.71
14. Spain 2.69
15. Scotland 2.68
16. England 2.63
17. Bulgaria 2.61
18. Portugal 2.61
19. Greece 2.59
20. Rumania 2.55
21. Yugoslavia 2.47
22. USSR 2.33
23. Poland 2.18
24. Turkey 2.03
25. Italy 1.90



LUXEMBOURG topped last season's goals-per-game chart with an average of 3.31 goals in their First Division. Scotland and England finished just below halfway, while the traditionally goal-shy Italians (Juventus v Torino seen here) hit rock-bottom, the only country with less than two goals

per game.

The only countries where the goal-scoring went up from 1977/78 were Norway, East Germany, France, Finland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Portugal, Greece, the USSR, Poland and Turkey; so, none of the leading countries can be pleased with their efforts.

News flashes

ANDERLECHT striker Ruud Geels has moved to Sparta Rotterdam in his native Holland, where he will also train the youth team.

TWENTY-year-old right winger Zbigniew Krusinski of Poland's Lech Danzig has asked the West Germans for political asylum after playing a friendly in Bremen.

RED Star Belgrade have signed three new players, but one of them, Bojko Vukemic from Budonost, is in trouble. Apparently he signed during the summer for another club as well, which is a very serious offence in Yugoslavia carrying a suspension between six months and two years.

WOLFGANG Seguin, of East German Cup winners 1FC Magdeburg, has played 344 League matches for the club including the last eight seasons in a row involving 208 games in succession without missing one.

GREEKS' BIG CHANCE

SEPTEMBER 12th is the most important date in the history of Greek football. The national side has never gone beyond the qualifying stages of either of the major competitions; now, Greece are just 90 minutes away from a place in the 1980 European Championship Finals.

They must beat the USSR by any score in front of their own fanatical supporters in Athens to win Group Six (assuming Finland don't win in Hungary and Russia). Everyone in Greece has been anxious since that day in early July when the USSR threw away their golden chance by only drawing 1-1 in Finland.

Our correspondent in Greece, Steve Stavriolis, thought long and hard when I asked him if the Greeks could beat the

Russians, but he feels the USSR are capable of a draw and then victory over Finland on their own soil.

Even so, no one can deny Greece have a marvellous opportunity and are in the driving seat. If Greece DO win, a Rio-like fiesta in the streets can be expected. If not... either the USSR, Hungary or Finland (1) will be in Italy next summer.

| | P | W | D | L | F | AGD | Pts |
|---------|---|---|---|---|----|------|-----|
| Greece | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 7+5 | 5 |
| Finland | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 10-3 | 5 |
| USSR | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 5-4 | 4 |
| Hungary | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 8-2 | 4 |

To come: Greece/USSR; Hungary/Finland (17/10); USSR/Finland (31/10).



WHEN Spanish Champions Real Madrid paid the best part of a million pounds for Laurie Cunningham, their decision to sign the 23-year-old winger was largely influenced by a sensational five-star performance that Laurie produced against star-studded Valencia last November, when West Brom were well worth their 1-1 U.E.F.A. Cup draw in the Luis Casanova Stadium. Cunningham was the English team's goalscorer and he had even the partisan Spanish fans on their feet with some superb solo runs. After the match the Press besieged Cunningham, while superstars like Mario Kempes and Rainer Bonhof were allowed to slip quietly out of the stadium, and Valencia's right-back Carrete was being asked embarrassing questions about why the West Brom winger had given him the run-around. Real Madrid and Laurie Cunningham begin their Spanish League programme on September 8th and, by coincidence, the 'Meringues' kick off with a home fixture against... Valencia!



Tough test for Cunningham

L AURIE himself is not at all dismayed that the season's first visitors to the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium are none other than Valencia (complete with Mario Kempes and Rainer Bonhof) and Barcelona (complete with Hans Krankl and Allan Simonsen).

"Nice tough competitive games," he says with a grin. "Nothing like starting with the hard ones! At least they'll play positive, quality football — and, after all, that's what I'm out here for!"

Laurie's almost aggressive mood of optimism hasn't been shaken by the six weeks since he began training with the Madrid club, and he insists that he can't wait for the League action to get under way.

Valencia's right back, Carrete, is also looking forward to the opening fixture — but for slightly different reasons! He's looking for revenge. "Cunningham won't find it so easy this time," he warns. "Remember we were the home team in the U.E.F.A. Cup game, and it was up to us to go all out for goals. In the second half I started to go upfield a lot, and that's when he found the space he needed. I can promise him and everyone else that I don't give that much room in away games, particularly when the opponent is Real Madrid."

Laurie's ability to cope with Spain's notoriously tough man-to-man marking is one of the question marks over his debut in the land of the peseta. Laurie himself waves a hand confidently; "no problems". And Vujadin Boskov, the 48-year-old Yugoslav who's just taken over as Real manager, agrees completely.

Cunningham can look after himself. Just look at him — he's built like a boxer! Let's face it,

English football isn't a game for softies and I'm sure the tackling is just as firm as over here. I, personally, think that our new forward line of Juanito, Santillana and Cunningham will be sensational, and I'm also very happy about Cunningham's arrival because he's only 23 and I think he could be a priceless asset for the club."

If Boskov expects great things from Cunningham, the Real fans expect even more. Over 20,000 of them turned up to watch his first training session and promptly started to chant "Coonigam, Coonigam" when he indulged in some ball-juggling along with Juanito. Both Laurie and his girlfriend, Nicky, have been amazed at the deluge of fans and reporters, too.

"I've never really spoken to the Press much," says Laurie with a grimace, "but over here I'm just having to be a lot more communicative."

Even so, being communicative hasn't always been easy. Cunningham arrived from Birmingham with a vocabulary of two or three words in Spanish, but he's made tremendous progress in six weeks of training with the squad and taking private lessons.

"Communication is important," says Laurie. "I mean, it's not so good when you can't even ask for the ball, is it?" Real have lived up to their reputation of being 'the best club in the world' by receiving Cunningham in style, and the squad has welcomed the new signing without reserve.

Now the friendly matches are finished, and everyone's eyes are on Laurie as Real start the serious job of defending their League title. We can only wish the London-born winger the best of luck — or in Spanish *animo y mucha suerte*, Laurie!

'It's going to be tough getting to the top'

claims Watford manager GRAHAM TAYLOR



WATFORD manager Graham Taylor shook his successful players to the tips of their studs when he told them that he was so disgusted with their League Cup First Round, second-leg tie performance against Colchester that he even contemplated leaving Vicarage Road.

Not that Watford's ambitious young boss meant his threat. But the fact that he had to issue such a verbal attack spotlights the crisis he believes he has to prevent before it escalates.

Quite simply, Hertfordshire's only League club is suffering from an acute attack of success-pressure.

Taylor's half-time roasting certainly had an effect because Watford fought back to beat Colchester on the night. It was not enough to keep them in a competition they shone in last season at the expense of Newcastle, Manchester United and Stoke City. But that 2-1 win was their first of the season.

Taylor explained: "I told the players that their display was disgusting, a disgrace. I also told

them that while I could not get rid of them en bloc, I could leave.

"Now the purpose of my outburst was to shake them up. They needed it. But let us be fair. We have come a long way in a short time since winning the Fourth Division Championship in 1978. Everyone in the town has become accustomed to a winning team.

'Fear'

"But I get the feeling from my players that if they finish fourth in the Second Division at the end of this season, they believe they will be considered to be failures!

"I have to get it across to them that the opposite is the truth. I have to check that fear now. We have won promotion in successive seasons and shown what we can do against the best teams in the League.

"We have spent £250,000 during the summer on ground improvements. We are building for long-term success, not an over-night, short-lived affair. It must be done properly so that it lasts. So we all

still have a lot of hard work to do, on and off the field, as early results have proved. We lost 2-0 at Leicester on the opening day and people are talking about pressure and the need to maintain our success of the past two seasons. But if you are ambitious and aim for the top, you have to accept that things will be tough at times, that problems will have to be faced. Otherwise you don't bother in the first place. You say to yourself 'Let's stay in the Fourth Division, let's not bother putting our necks on the block. Let's forget all about getting involved in the battle to be the best.' Then life is supposed to be easier. Well, it is not. Because that situation creates another type of pressure.

"I am making it clear to everyone here that if he does not have the courage to go on from here, then now is the time to speak up. I have played my part in what we have achieved. And I am not interested in people who do not want to see the job through.

"I understand what is going through peoples' minds. But it is

unfair to expect us to storm straight through to the First Division. We go into every game with that ambition in mind. But if we are still a Second Division club at the end of this season, we will not have failed in any way."

In fact, if Watford finish 17th it will be their highest place in the Football League since entering the Third Division in 1920 because their previous highest position was 18th in season 1970-71, the second of their three season spell in Division Two before relegation overtook them in 1972.

Taylor has handed his message to his players. But perhaps a similar one should be presented to the fans — give your team a chance. They have achieved a minor miracle already. Unfair demands made upon them now could burst a delicate bubble as Taylor, and chairman Elton John, gradually pave the way to the First Division.

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FIRST DAY DEBUTS

A new season is always given an added dash of colour if your favourite club parades a player making his debut. The opening day of the 1979-80 campaign was no exception. **TOP LEFT:** Leicester City new boy Gregor Stevens, signed from Motherwell, out-jumps Watford's Brian Pollard. **ABOVE:** Another debut act, involving Bristol Rovers' newcomer Terry Cooper (left) and Q.P.R. livewire Karl Elsey. **BELOW LEFT:** Manchester City's expensive import Mick Robinson (left) shoots narrowly wide of Crystal Palace's goal, and in the same game Palace's newcomer Gerry Francis (below) tussles with City's other debutant Steve McKenzie.



'There's a battle on at Boro — for first team places' says keeper JIM PLATT

LATE last April, Middlesbrough's Jim Platt could afford to raise a smile of satisfaction for the first time in an unsettling 12-month period. He had emerged from a soccer wilderness to help take the Teessiders to a respectable League position, and now in 1979-80 hopes his club can carry on where they left off a few months ago.

"After being left out of Middlesbrough's first team, I'd resigned myself to having no future at Ayresome," says Jim. "Then I was recalled to the side, and it was pleasing to take part in a run during which we were unbeaten in ten of our last 14 games. And that consistent run of good form has continued. From our first three games this season we gained five points."

Following Platt's recall to First Division football, there was speculation on Teesside concerning the future of the Northern Ireland international goalkeeper, but he signed a new two-year contract with the club in the close season and has been promised a testimonial with Boro next year.

Says Jim: "When I signed on again, I had a talk with our manager John

Neal, and I'm aware that I'm not guaranteed a first team spot.

"Taking the side as a whole, there is certain to be a battle for places in it, and I feel this is a season in which Middlesbrough simply have to win something — the fans have been waiting for us to achieve success in League and Cup competition since we were promoted in 1974, and victory in our first two League games was encouraging.

'Effective'

"We have been buying to prepare for this term, and I gained a lot of respect for our recent signing, Irving Natrass, when he played for Newcastle United against us. He has the reputation of being equally effective either in the back-four or in midfield, but as I've been used to seeing him operate at the back, I would plump for him in this position.

"While the fans will be keen to watch the progress of Irving, and our other big-name acquisition, Basco Yanovic from Yugoslavia, they can also rely on the first-class consistency of John Craggs and David Armstrong



Jim Platt plunges at Tottenham striker Chris Jones' feet last season. Middlesbrough won 2-0. They gave Spurs a beating again this season.

— who have done tremendously well over a period of several years for Middlesbrough.

"Strangely enough, while we had scored more goals last season than in any previous years after promotion, people were still talking about us as a defensive-minded team. I think it's time they took more notice of our attacking qualities, as Spurs did on the opening Saturday of the season. Remember we beat them 3-1 at White Hart Lane. Then in midweek we thrashed Manchester City 3-0 at Ayresome Park."

If Middlesbrough can become title-challengers in 1979-80, Platt is in no

doubt about who will be their biggest rivals — it is Liverpool and Nottingham Forest.

"They are the two best teams. However, the position of third from top could go to any one of a number of clubs, and if Middlesbrough can be in the top three by April we will have accomplished something.

"Meanwhile, as regards my own career, I'll do my best to prove I can acquit myself at the highest level for my club. I thought I had a good season in 1978-79 and did well when I was out of Middlesbrough's first team and on loan — the days when I doubted my ability are gone."

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LEN
SHACKLETON

EX-ENGLAND international Len Shackleton was known the length and breadth of the country as 'The Clown Prince of Soccer' — but the antics of this brilliant ball-player on the field never disguised the fact that he possessed one of the keenest brains in the game.

Len would stand on the ball, hitch up his shorts, and direct cheeky 40-yard back-passes to his own goalkeeper. He once sat on the ball. He would sometimes joke: "I only play 20 minutes in a match."

Nowadays, Len is a sports writer in the North-East, living not far from Roker Park, the ground where his footwork once delighted the Sunderland fans and dazzled the opposition. And in 1979, Shackleton still indicates his liking for the off-the-cuff quip. He says: "Writing is better than working for a living."

Transferred from Bradford to Newcastle United for £13,000 in 1946, "Shack" scored six out of his new club's 13 goals against Newport. Later, he swapped the black and white of Newcastle for the red and white jersey of Sunderland, gained full international honours and became a legend on Wearside.

Discussing his past career, Shackleton says: "There is no particular game, or occasion, which particularly sticks in my mind. To me, every match was something to look forward to, to enjoy. It's only when you finish playing that you appreciate how much it all meant to you."





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Terry McDermott's killer goal just before the interval sent Arsenal sliding to defeat. O'Leary and Walford (below left) can only watch as the ball scorches home.



O'Leary and Rice (above left) and Walford (right) are powerless to stop Dalglish's goal after an hour's play.

LIVERPOOL WEMBLEY MAGIC AGAIN!

LIVERPOOL have made something of a habit of playing at Wembley, and, in particular, the Charity Shield pre-season spectacular.

The Reds have made four appearances in the showpiece match since 1974.

This time Arsenal were put to the sword as the mighty Anfield machine steamrollered them to a 3-1 defeat last month.

Ray Clemence conceded a consolation goal to Alan Sunderland four minutes from the end, but most of the time the Champions were rampaging towards Arsenal's goal.

Terry McDermott, two goals, and Kenny Dalglish, one, made it another red-letter day for Liverpool.

SHOOT!

FOCUS ON

GARY OWEN

W.B.A.

FULL NAME: Gary Owen
BIRTHPLACE: St Helens, Merseyside
BIRTHDAY: 7th July, 1958
HEIGHT: 5ft 8ins
WEIGHT: 10st 11lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Manchester City
MARRIED: No
CAR: Ford Capri 2.0 Ghia
FAVOURITE PLAYER: George Best
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: None
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Too many to mention
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: League debut for City against Wolverhampton Wanderers. We won 3-2
BIGGEST THRILL: Captaining England Under-21 v. Denmark last season, winning 2-1
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Not winning a major honour with Manchester City
BEST COUNTRIES VISITED: Holland and Japan
FAVOURITE FOOD: Steak and my Sunday breakfast
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Most sports and driving
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Gardening and cleaning my car
FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: All sports programmes and comedies
FAVOURITE SINGER: Rod Stewart
FAVOURITE ACTOR: Clint Eastwood
BEST FRIEND: I hope I've many
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My father and a lot of people at Manchester City
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Losing and injuries
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: England Youth, Under-21 and B caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be happy and successful
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To gain a full England cap and to win trophies with West Bromwich Albion
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? No idea
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Muhammad Ali



SHOOT!



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'We're going into the land of the unknown'

EUROPE beckons. But it shouldn't take too long for me to tell you what I know about Celtic's First Round European Cup opponents Tirana of Albania on September 19th.

Talk about tales of mystery and imagination. I am not sure whether I am looking forward to our trip into the land that no one seems to know anything about.

They call our great game 'futbolit' over there and although Partizani Tirana may be the football Champions of their country, their renown is hardly world wide.

But let's have a little look at what we do know. Tirana are one of the three big names in Albania, but they have never progressed beyond the First Round of the European Cup.

Even in the Cup-Winners' Cup the only notable thing they achieved was to put out Atvidaberg of Sweden in a qualifying round and then they lost to Wacker of Innsbruck.

I understand the population of the country is only about two million, not even half that of Scotland, and that there are ten teams in their First Division.

Rumour has it they don't always turn up for the second-leg if they have to travel, but we will just have to wait and see about that.

Tirana are an Army side and are slightly more powerful than Dinamo, a police outfit. They play in the all-seated Stafa Stadium, which holds a 25,000 crowd.

And that is just about that!

OK, so it is hardly the best file in the world, but I reckon we would need to sign James Bond himself to get a more thorough rundown on the mystery men.

There have been some good cracks flying about Parkhead since the draw was made, with some of the lads planning to do their Christmas shopping before we leave because they reckon they won't be back until about Christmas Eve.

But I suppose we should look at it as an adventure and to be honest despite all the hilarity and mys-



Peter Bonetti will add valuable experience to Dundee United's European hopes this season.

game that surely must attract a big crowd at Tannadice.

And if the Taysiders are generally short on Europe experience, they have one man at least who knows what international class football is all about... Peter Bonetti.

The former Cat of Stamford Bridge has been over the course with Chelsea and will keep Paul Hegarty and company right. Anderlecht might be in for a shock.

Aberdeen v Eintracht? Well, The Dons must not let the big name frighten them. Eintracht were the pride of West Germany once — who can ever forget the match some call the greatest of all time when they lost 7-3 to Real Madrid in the European Cup Final at Hampden back in 1960.

Finally I was interested to read about Ipswich refusing to release manager Bobby Robson to Athletic Bilbao of Spain because the Spaniards would not pay a transfer fee reputed to be in the region of £200,000.

It struck me that there should be a transfer fee for managers just as there is for players and indeed it could be argued bosses should be more costly.

After all when you take on a new supreme it is supposed to be long term, although that is not always the case. In a way it is sad that fans won't wait for success, although in another way understandable.

On Saturday (September 8th) we entertain Dundee United at Parkhead. Last season we drew 1-1 and won 2-1. I hope we can go one better this time.

See you in two weeks...

Danny McGrain

NEXT WEEK'S TARTAN TALK BY RANGERS' DEREK JOHNSTONE

tery, we must be hot favourites to make the Second Round.

What of the rest of Scottish representation? By the time you read this Rangers will have played Lillestrom, of Norway, in the Cup-Winners' Cup and although they only won the first-leg 1-0 I still expect them to get through.

If they do overcome the Norwegians, Rangers will really be up against it in the First Round with their two-leg affair against last season's beaten Finalists Fortuna

Dusseldorf, who will no doubt be consulting Bundesliga colleagues Cologne on the Ibrox set-up.

Cologne you will remember are the team who beat Rangers in the Quarter-Finals of the European Cup in 1978-79 after the Ibrox men had beaten Juventus and PSV Eindhoven.

It will be tough... but then Aberdeen and Dundee United have hardly got it easy in the U.E.F.A. Cup. Dundee United take on the famous Anderlecht in a glamorous

NOBBY

I KNOW YOU'VE SIGNED A FOREIGN PLAYER, BOSS



BUT HE ISN'T SO THICK, I'M SURE!



I KNOW VERY WELL HE ISN'T



I WAS TALKING TO YOU!



NEW CHAIRMAN

HIBS forward Tony Higgins has become chairman of the Scottish Players' Union at the most critical time in its history. The members are considering industrial action in the New Year depending on the progress reports about freedom of contract for players.

The SFA and the Scottish League are meantime investigating the position in England. Higgins took over as chairman in succession to Alex Rae of Forfar Athletic.

NEWS

Compiled by
BILL DAY



DESK

GIDMAN EXPLAINS

"I HOPE the fans understand why I want to leave Aston Villa," said defender, John Gidman.

He added: "It was a situation which came to a head. There was no other alternative but to ask for a move."

Gidman's problem concerned new terms in his contract. He asked for a big increase which the Villa Board refused to pay.

Ron Saunders, Aston Villa's manager, said: "I've always done the best I can for my players."

"I'm fully aware that a player's life is a short one and that he must make as much money as possible in the time available but there was no way we could meet Gidman's demands."

After Angela Rippon comes John Motson!

B.B.C. TV newscaster Angela Rippon was persuaded to flash armchair viewers a glimpse of her famous legs on the Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show. It caused a storm! Now, "Match of the Day" commentator John Motson has done likewise — in a testimonial match in East Anglia. John, I give you three out of 10 for physique; seven out of 10 for concentration; and 10 out of 10 for courage!

John (right) was captaining a Commentators XI against Bobby Robson's XI at Felkistowe

STRANGEST injury of the season . . . Morton skipper Davie Hayes fell getting out of a car before a Premier match at Cappielow. He cut his hand and went to hospital for stitches. Manager Benny Rooney had to call-up Joe McLaughlin for his first team debut.

Everton's GORDON LEE says 'I'LL DO IT MY WAY'



THE casual observer studying the unrest at Everton could be forgiven for thinking that the club's problems this season stem from manager Gordon Lee.

"You don't get players seeking transfers if they play for a good manager" I can hear the critics suggesting.

But my information is that Gordon Lee is not at the root of the Goodison Park squabbles. He treats his players fairly and has gained the respect of most of his squad.

The decision of Bob Latchford, Dave Thomas, Mike Pejic and Colin Todd to take their services elsewhere is their choice and not a reflection on Gordon Lee's management.

Lee speaks of his problems philosophically: "I am determined to overcome the difficulties. I will do what I believe is right for the club."

"I know that the pressure on me

is greater now than it has been in the last two seasons, but irrespective of the newspaper publicity concerning my future at Goodison Park I have confidence that the board will support me. They appreciate my problems.

"It is going to be a difficult season. Football is about doing what you think is right, and I shan't alter. Whatever happens to me I shall do my best. It would be wrong to say that we will win the League or the Cup. I can't guarantee that."

"I will never have players who are unhappy at Everton," he said, referring to those who want to leave Goodison. "I believe if a player doesn't want to play for Everton he should be transferred. If I have to play youngsters, I will do so."

Fighting talk by a manager who has his principles — and stands by them even when the pressure is at its fiercest. You have to admire that. They call it courage.

UNLUCKY BELL

THE unluckiest player in the Midlands must be Norman Bell (right), Wolves striker, who has broken a leg for the second time in just six months.

The latest accident took place in training and an X-ray revealed a crack on the same spot as the break which occurred in the game at Crystal Palace in February.

John Barnwell, Wolves manager, who is himself recovering from a head operation following a road accident, said: "It is a tragedy for the boy because he worked so hard to get himself fit for the start of the season."

'L' plate driver Brazil

THE village of Capel St. Mary is home for several Ipswich Town players, which comes as good news to Alan Brazil who is in digs in the village because it means he never goes short of a lift to and from the ground each day.

Paul Cooper and Mick Lambert (now with Peterborough) live nearby but Alan is hoping that he won't have to depend on them for much longer. "I'm taking driving lessons at the moment," he says, "and if I pass my test I'm hoping to get a car of my own."

At the moment he is not getting much opportunity to indulge in his favourite other sport of golf.

Snooker is another of his likes and he usually plays weekly with Ipswich goalkeeper Paul Cooper who plays for a local snooker team. Alan, introduced for his first full game last season, certainly leads an active life.

MARTIN of Arabia

NEIL Martin, the Coventry City and Nottingham Forest player, has returned to Kuwait for another 12 months.

He is assistant to former Derby County boss, Dave Mackay, at the Arabic Sporting Club.

Martin said: "I'm hoping to get into management in England but I've received an improved contract from the Sporting Club for the next year."

FACTastic

IT is not unusual these days for a player to be transferred for a modest sum with the proviso that his new club will pay an additional fee when he has appeared in a given number of first team games. But in the mid-twenties, Sunderland and Arsenal were involved in an even more sensational deal. They signed England centre-forward Charles Buchan from Sunderland for a fee of £1,000 (yes, one thousand pounds!) plus £100 for every goal he scored for Arsenal that season. The Gunners had to pay Sunderland an additional sum of £2,700 for big Charlie hit the net 27 times!

Yarwood gets serious

MIKE Yarwood, the entertainer who makes a living out of taking the mickey out of Brian Clough, Jimmy Hill and Eddie Waring, can be deadly serious when talking about his favourite sport of football.

An honorary vice-president of Fourth Division Stockport County. Mike's wish for the game is that clubs will make more use of wingers.

"Tom Finney always delighted me. I just can't understand why wingers are not used nowadays. A ball pulled back ahead of a striker is always a better ball. I hope West Brom will give Peter Barnes the chance to show us a thing or two and I look forward to Brian Clough using my favourite player Trevor Francis in a wide role that was so effective in the European Cup Final."





Spot the ball

Meet the Hunchback of Notre Liverpool — Jimmy Case. Or could it be the pre-match kick-around ball the Anfield club's star midfielder concealed under his shirt before meeting F.A. Chairman, Sir Harold Thompson, before the Charity Shield match against Arsenal at Wembley.

CRAIG Moores, 18-year-old Bolton winger, has more than one string to his bow.

Moores, who first joined the Burnden Park staff in May, 1977, and turned professional last February, plays both the guitar and harmonica and is also a dab hand when it comes to art and drawing.



Tommy Holden, the former England amateur international trialist, has turned professional — at 27.

He played for Shildon and Willington in the Northern League. But has now joined Racing Jet, of Belgium.

He had given up thoughts of becoming a pro — he had trials with Blackburn and Southampton — when the approach came.

You ask, players answer...

Is there a question you've always wanted to ask your favourite player? Well, now you can. Write to the player of your choice c/o SHOOT, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, Lon-

KEVIN Pugh, an 18-year-old midfielder with Newcastle, has only been a professional at St. James' Park since last October, but he is still thinking seriously about his future.

"I go to technical college for motor vehicle studies as I would like to be a mechanic when my playing career is over," says Corbridge-born Pugh.

Young Kev is quite an all-round sportsman having won honours for swimming, table tennis and running as well as soccer.

CORK CELTIC EXPELLED

CORK Celtic have been expelled from the League of Ireland. University College Dublin will take their place when the League commences next Sunday (September 9th).

Celtic had spent 20 years in the League of Ireland and they won the Championship as recently as 1973-74. Last season was the first time that they finished bottom.

Cochrane coming back

EBULLIENT Middlesbrough wing ace Terry Cochrane says he'll be going flat out to recapture his Northern Ireland berth in the 1979-80 campaign.

Potentially scintillating though sometimes out-of-touch, Terry was involved in an undignified on-field feud with Irish team-mate Gerry Armstrong (Spurs) in last season's Windsor Park British Championship game v. England, after which the ball-playing winger was dropped for the remaining end-of-term fixtures v. Scotland, Wales and Denmark.

"I was hampered by injury towards the end of last season, hit a bad patch and nothing went right for me," says tantalising Terry. "But be sure of one thing. I'm determined to win back my international place — and form! — this term!"

Ten-times-capped Terry became the most expensive Football League Ulsterman when Burnley sold him to Middlesbrough, a year ago, for a fee in the region of £210,000.

don SE1 9LS. We will then approach the player and print the most interesting answers in SHOOT.

The senders of all letters published will receive a £2 prize.

BRITISH PLAYERS DOMINATE



Dennis Tueart

AN Argentine and an Englishman have stolen the individual honours in the regular NASL season. Oscar Fabbiani topped the scorers' chart in his first American season, while former Wolves 'keeper Phil Parkes had the best average of any goalie.

Gerd Müller, the incredible West German goal machine, was the "moral Champion" of the goal course.

League, having played a game less than either Fabbiani or Chinaglia. How 'Der Bomber' must curse a missed penalty against Philadelphia right at the end of the season; those three points would have put him joint-top.

Half the ten goalscorers are British, while four of the leading net-minders are British.

SOCCER in the STATES



S.W.A.K.

THOSE romantics who remember receiving letters from their childhood sweethearts marked S.W.A.L.K. (Sealed With A Loving Kiss) will be pleased to know the tradition hasn't died out completely.

The San Diego Sockers are stamping S.W.A.K. on their envelopes.

S.W.A.K? Sealed With A Kick, of course.

NASL LEADING SCORERS

| | Games | Goals | Ass | pts |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| Oscar Fabbiani, Tampa Bay | 26 | 25 | 8 | 58 |
| Giorgio Chinaglia, New York | 27 | 26 | 5 | 57 |
| Gerd Müller, Ft. Lauderdale | 25 | 19 | 17 | 55 |
| Jeff Bourne, Atlanta | 29 | 18 | 15 | 51 |
| Davie Robb, Philadelphia | 30 | 16 | 19 | 51 |
| Karl-Heinz Granitz, Chicago | 30 | 20 | 10 | 50 |
| Teofilo Cubillas, Ft. Lauderdale | 30 | 16 | 18 | 50 |
| Alan Willey, Minnesota | 29 | 21 | 7 | 49 |
| Dennis Tueart, New York | 27 | 16 | 17 | 49 |
| Laurie Abrahams, Cal/Tul | 25 | 18 | 9 | 45 |

*NASL LEADING GOALKEEPERS

| | Games | Min | Saves | GA | Shootout | Avg. |
|---------------------------|-------|------|-------|----|----------|--------|
| Phil Parkes, Vancouver | 29 | 2704 | 99 | 29 | 7 | 0.965 |
| Victor Nogueira, Atlanta | 17 | 1432 | 79 | 20 | 5 | 1.26 |
| Zeljko Bilecki, Tampa Bay | 17 | 1549 | 93 | 22 | 5 | 1.28 |
| Mike Ivanow, Seattle | 28 | 2517 | 149 | 39 | 2 | 1.39 |
| Bill Irwin, Washington | 28 | 2603 | 134 | 42 | 4 | 1.45 |
| Paul Hammond, Houston | 29 | 2705 | 215 | 44 | 6 | 1.46 |
| Volkmar Gross, SD/Min | 24 | 2132 | 137 | 38 | 6 | 1.604 |
| Kevin Keelan, New England | 25 | 2242 | 133 | 40 | 6 | 1.6057 |
| Tino Lettieri, Minnesota | 15 | 1378 | 95 | 25 | 2 | 1.63 |

(*Goalkeepers need 1350 minutes to qualify)

REGULAR SEASON — FINAL TABLE

| NATIONAL CONFERENCE | GP | W | L | GF | GA | BP | TP |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Eastern Division | | | | | | | |
| New York | 30 | 24 | 6 | 84 | 57 | 72 | 216 |
| Washington | 30 | 19 | 11 | 68 | 50 | 59 | 172 |
| Toronto | 30 | 14 | 16 | 52 | 65 | 49 | 133 |
| Rochester | 30 | 15 | 15 | 43 | 57 | 42 | 132 |
| Central Division | | | | | | | |
| Minnesota | 30 | 21 | 9 | 67 | 51 | 58 | 184 |
| Dallas | 30 | 17 | 13 | 53 | 51 | 50 | 152 |
| Tulsa | 30 | 14 | 16 | 61 | 56 | 55 | 139 |
| Atlanta | 30 | 12 | 18 | 59 | 61 | 49 | 121 |
| Western Division | | | | | | | |
| Vancouver | 30 | 20 | 10 | 54 | 34 | 52 | 172 |
| Los Angeles | 30 | 18 | 12 | 62 | 47 | 54 | 162 |
| Seattle | 30 | 13 | 17 | 58 | 52 | 47 | 125 |
| Portland | 30 | 11 | 19 | 50 | 75 | 46 | 112 |
| AMERICAN CONFERENCE | | | | | | | |
| Eastern Division | | | | | | | |
| Tampa Bay | 30 | 19 | 11 | 67 | 46 | 55 | 169 |
| Ft. Lauderdale | 30 | 17 | 13 | 75 | 65 | 63 | 165 |
| Philadelphia | 30 | 10 | 20 | 55 | 60 | 51 | 111 |
| New England | 30 | 12 | 18 | 41 | 56 | 38 | 110 |
| Central Division | | | | | | | |
| Houston | 30 | 22 | 8 | 61 | 46 | 55 | 187 |
| Chicago | 30 | 16 | 14 | 70 | 62 | 63 | 159 |
| Detroit | 30 | 14 | 16 | 61 | 56 | 49 | 133 |
| Memphis | 30 | 6 | 24 | 38 | 74 | 37 | 73 |
| Western Division | | | | | | | |
| San Diego | 30 | 15 | 15 | 59 | 55 | 50 | 140 |
| California | 30 | 15 | 15 | 53 | 55 | 50 | 140 |
| Edmonton | 30 | 8 | 22 | 43 | 78 | 40 | 88 |
| San Jose | 30 | 8 | 22 | 41 | 74 | 38 | 86 |

(*Total Points — Win — 6 Pts., Defeat — 0 Pts., Bonus Points: one point is awarded for each goal scored up to a maximum of three per team per game.)

Qualified for play-offs: New York, Toronto, Houston, Philadelphia, Tampa, Fort Lauderdale, Chicago, San Diego, Tulsa, Minnesota, Los Angeles, Vancouver, Dallas, California, Detroit, Washington.

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|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
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| BOLTON | S/BOYS | BOYS | YOUTHS | S/MENS | |
| BAHRAIN | S/BOYS | BOYS | YOUTHS | S/MENS | |
| WALES HOME | S/BOYS | BOYS | YOUTHS | S/MENS | LARGE |
| SINGAPORE AWAY | S/BOYS | BOYS | YOUTHS | S/MENS | LARGE |
| SAUDI ARABIA | S/BOYS | BOYS | YOUTHS | S/MENS | LARGE |
| INDONESIA AWAY | S/BOYS | BOYS | YOUTHS | S/MENS | |
| ENGLAND HOME | S/BOYS | BOYS | YOUTHS | S/MENS | |
| LEEDS HOME | S/BOYS | BOYS | YOUTHS | S/MENS | |
| C PALACE AWAY | S/BOYS | BOYS | YOUTHS | S/MENS | |
| DUNDEE HOME | S/BOYS | BOYS | YOUTHS | S/MENS | |
| EINTRACHT AWAY | S/BOYS | BOYS | YOUTHS | S/MENS | |
| LEICESTER HOME | S/BOYS | BOYS | YOUTHS | S/MENS | |
| LEICESTER AWAY | S/BOYS | BOYS | YOUTHS | S/MENS | |
| SHEFFIELD HOME | S/BOYS | BOYS | YOUTHS | S/MENS | |
| WEST HAM HOME | S/BOYS | BOYS | YOUTHS | S/MENS | |
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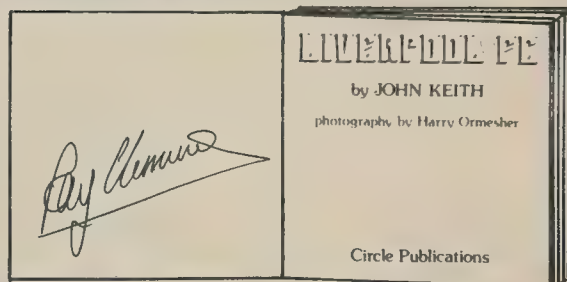
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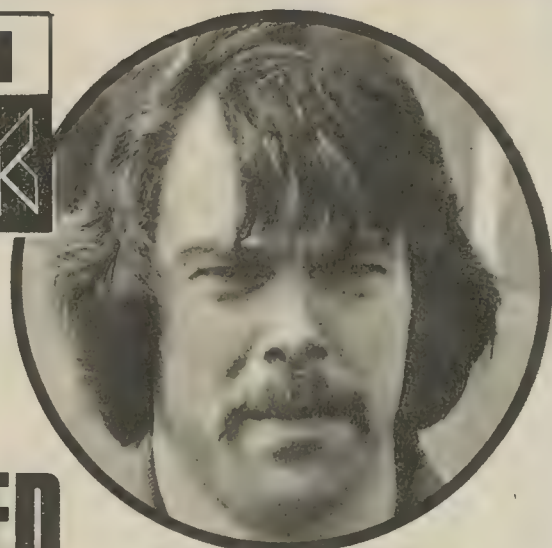
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SHOOT 18



BIG MATCH CROSSTALK

NOTTM. FOREST v LEEDS UNITED



*'I respect Leeds —
but we'll win'*
FRANKIE GRAY (Forest)

at the City Ground on
Saturday, September 8th

*'This game will be a
battle royal'*
DAVID HARVEY (Leeds)

GRAY: It will seem strange playing against you after being an Elland Road team-mate for many years. But it will be nice to see you and all the lads again.

HARVEY: It will be enjoyable for me — after the game — except I've just remembered I still owe you a few pounds from the small bets we had on the horses. You're lucky, you know.

GRAY: Yes, and I think I was fortunate moving here, too. I am sure Forest are going to have another great season. I was so surprised when Leeds boss Jimmy Adamson said Forest wanted to talk to me one Friday lunch time. By the following morning, I was their player.

HARVEY: As you know yourself from previous games, it's normally a close, competitive battle between Forest and Leeds. This one is likely to be just as keen, especially as it's so early in the season. I'm expecting a busy game because Clough's men seem to work on the principle the more shots you have, the more goals you score. So I'll have to be at my sharpest.

GRAY: You're a fine 'keeper, but you'll have to go some to beat Peter Shilton. He is absolutely tremendous. Obviously, you don't win the things Forest have in the last two years without having good players, but he has impressed me most of all.

HARVEY: We were, of course, sorry to see you and Tony Currie go. We'll miss you both in the sense that you could do things out of the ordinary, which is no doubt why Brian Clough wanted you. The people who have replaced the pair of you may not have the same skills but they've got other qualities and only time will tell if the team is as good as last season.

GRAY: It must be heartbreaking to sell someone of Tony Currie's class but then Jimmy Adamson didn't have much choice. As you've said, you can only hope now that you won't miss him too much and that some one else will come through to take his place.

HARVEY: Brian Flynn is certainly



Peter Shilton (left) has been in tremendous form for Forest. Brian Flynn (above) is compensating for Tony Currie's departure with consistent displays.

doing everything possible to make up for Tony's departure. He gets through so much work in 90 minutes, it's frightening. He's very consistent, too.

GRAY: I'm looking forward to playing in the European Cup this term.

It will bring back memories of playing in the Final with Leeds. But this time, I'm hoping to get a winners' medal. I think Real Madrid and Hamburger have both got to be respected — they've also got English players, of course. But my

dream is to play Liverpool in the Final. That would be a great finish to the season.

HARVEY: We can't wait to play our first European match, either. It's been a long wait to get back in and we've all realised just how much we miss it. Especially the old 'uns like myself. As you get older, you miss those kind of matches more. When you're younger, you're just happy to be playing — whoever the opposition is.

GRAY: I know first hand how important European competition is to Leeds. They're a big club and they need to be in Europe every year. I think you'll do well, too because I can't see you losing that many away from home. That's a big plus in Europe.

HARVEY: It may sound daft, but I think the U.E.F.A. Cup is the hardest to win of the three European competitions. Instead of just one side from each country, as in the other two Cups, you get three strong sides from the top countries. That makes it tough.

GRAY: Getting nearer home, I'm looking forward to doing battle with all my friends at Leeds. It's not been long since I left, but I don't think I'll end up passing to the wrong team. I respect all the players at Leeds but I'll have to watch out for Carl Harris most of all because I expect I'll be marking him.

HARVEY: It's important for us to do well at the City Ground as you're one of only four sides I think have a chance of the title. Liverpool, West Brom and ourselves are the others.

GRAY: It would be great if we were battling it out for the title at the end of the season. But that seems a long way off at the moment. Right now, we're just concentrating on getting two points from this game.

HARVEY: I am confident this match will be a battle royal with us getting the correct result. Besides I need a win bonus to soften the blow of having to pay you your gambling winnings!

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imagined what it
would be like to
play at Wembley?



SEAN McCANN

Follow the exciting football adventures of Georgie Goode, the brilliant gypsy star, and the problems he and his team have to cope with on the road to the County Cup and Schoolboy Final at Wembley.

Author, Sean McCann is the well known sports journalist and ex-goalkeeper and is now manager of a schoolboy football team.

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THE very first time I played at Old Trafford was a disaster. Chelsea were leading 2-0 with two minutes to go. My brother, Graham, broke a leg and I had come on for Chris Garland, who had a strain, I believe.

The game ended 2-2. United fans erupted as their team snatched a point when all had seemed lost.

I hope to have many happier memories of Old Trafford in the future and the early signs are that I shall. My home debut against West Brom, went well as we won 2-0. For the record, as far as I can remember, that was the fourth occasion I'd played there. I also represented England Under-23's against Hungary there. Which we won 3-1, and I can also remember Chelsea winning 1-0 thanks to a Bill Garner header.

As I wrote in an earlier column, I'd almost resigned myself to staying with Chelsea, certainly for a while. United's bid didn't seem to meet Chelsea's valuation and I faced up to starting the season in Division Two.

Then, on the Tuesday before the

big kick-off, as I reported for training, Danny Blanchflower told me to go home as Dave Sexton wanted to speak to me as soon as possible. I dashed home and was on the first train to Manchester. I spoke to Dave, returned home that night and went up to Manchester again the next day to officially sign.

There wasn't a more relieved footballer in England. The transfer saga had dragged on for weeks . . . months, even. We didn't have a holiday, just in case something happened.

I also spoke to Everton and Ipswich. Gordon Lee was very fair and Bobby Robson also told me how much he wanted me. Really, it was United or no one by that stage. I'd set my heart on Old Trafford and the deciding factor was not money, but the quality of football. I reckoned United, with their long tradition for attacking football, would give me what I was looking for.

I can't remember too much about the Munich side — I was only just born when the tragedy occurred. The United team of Best, Law and

'WHY I'M



"Signing for United, watched by my wife Jacky and manager Dave Sexton."



and just leave. I have many fond memories of my career there and I was delighted to see them get off to a winning start in Division Two.

Chelsea gave me my chance and I like to think I've repayed them. The club has had its ups and downs both on and off the field, but the people there are friendly and genuine.



The time was right for us to part and it was a mutual agreement. There are no hard feelings and Chelsea's will be the first result I look out for.

I hope playing for United will help my England career. I think simply playing in a successful side improves a player and I'm sure

tryside around Cheshire is beautiful. Anyway, the "Smoke" is only three hours away by train, and not much more by road, so I'll be able to keep in touch with my family and friends in the capital.

This Saturday (September 8th) I'll be down in Birmingham to play against Aston Villa. The United lads have told me they had a marvellous game there last year, which ended 2-2, and a similar result this weekend won't be too bad.

Villa were virtually unbeatable at Villa Park a couple of seasons ago, but their form last year in front of their own fans was disappointing. They have one or two problems, yet there are too many good players available for Villa to be anything but tough opposition.

Next Wednesday, I hope to line-up for England against Denmark at Wembley. A year ago, the Danes proved to be a lively side in Copenhagen and we scraped home 4-3 in a most exciting match. I dare say they will have all their top players as they'll be keen to play at what is still regarded as THE football

stadium in the world.

I doubt whether Ron Greenwood will make too many changes, although one or two may be forced upon him.

We shouldn't slip up now and if we're not in Italy next June for the European Championship Finals we will have only ourselves to blame. The team did well on the summer tour, despite losing in Austria, and I'm hoping we can continue to progress and build on what we have.

Denmark won't be pushovers by any means. The players will be keen to impress their new manager and their confidence must be high after beating Northern Ireland 4-0.

They have some outstanding players, such as captain Allan Simonsen, Henning Jensen and Frank Arnesen. Join me again in a fortnight.

SMILING AGAIN!'

Charlton was fabulous, though, and the thought of playing for the same club as so many great players was tempting, to say the least.

It also helped that I'd known Dave Sexton since I was 13 and joined Chelsea. The combination of a famous club and a manager I had the utmost respect for made United my number one choice.

I like Dave's style of coaching. He never forgets the basics, like heading, volleying and trapping as some coaches do and the mere fact that he was willing to pay so much for me gave me a belief in myself that I hadn't previously had.

I wasn't under Dave too much at Chelsea in the first team, although I knew him well and even toured with him this summer, as Dave helps with the England Under-21 team. It was awkward for both of us. He would mention to me now and again how he was still in the hunt for me, but as soon as we were seen chatting the other England lads gave us a lot of "stick"!

The size of the near £1 million fee doesn't bother me too much. I didn't fix it, although I'm fully aware of what is expected of me. This is something I'll have to live with and the challenge excites me.

A professional footballer thrives on challenges, whether they are big fees or big matches. I know I'll be under the microscope and opposing fans will chant "Chelsea reject". That doesn't upset me at all. In fact, it's flattering — who was it who said bad players aren't abused! I left Chelsea with some regrets. I'd been at Stamford Bridge for half my life and you can't be at a place that long

there will be regular success at Old Trafford during the 80's.

I'll be linking-up with Stevie Coppell regularly and the thought of a huge crowd come what may is enough to motivate any player.

The United fans gave me a wonderful reception and as a United player I can now appreciate just how much the Stretford End and company mean to the lads. The travelling support, too, is incredible.

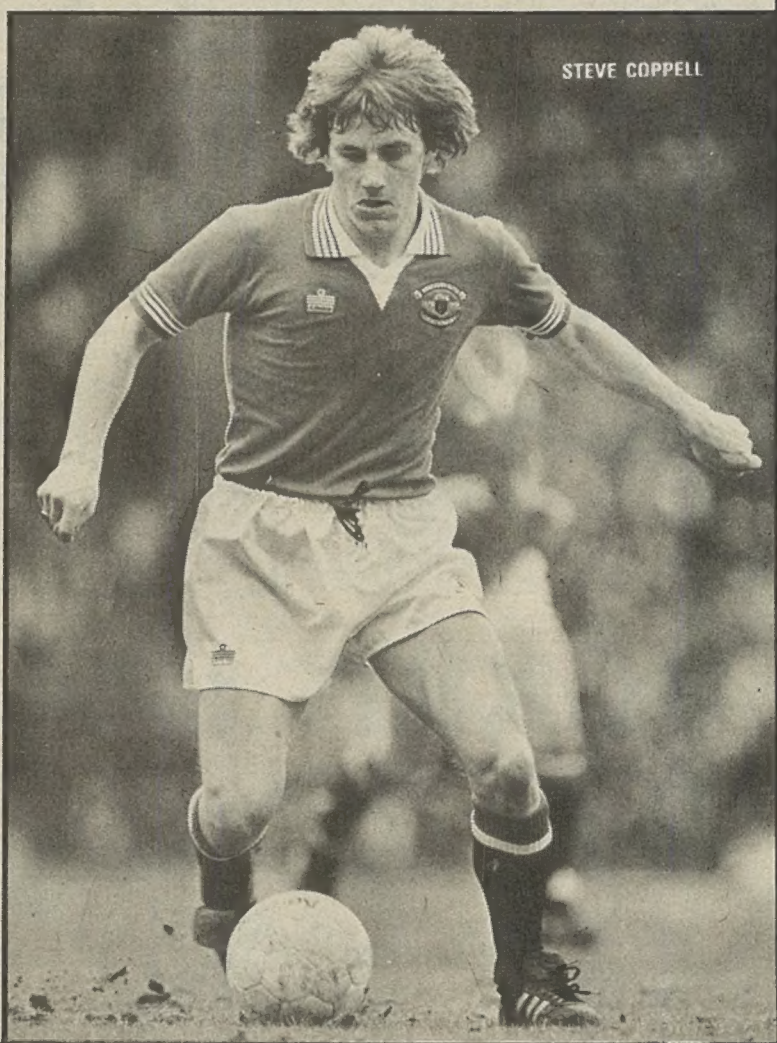
My debut, at Southampton, was rather undistinguished. United didn't play that well, although a few days later at Old Trafford we did well against West Brom. Then, at Arsenal, the game didn't get going. I'm not too sure why, although the Gunners' constant use of the away trap at home doesn't help.

Eventually, I hope to settle in a role linking the defence and front-line. Having said that, I appreciate the need for me to get forward as much as possible.

It's been said my style is too slow for all-action United. I wouldn't go along with that, as there are times during a game when the tempo needs to be changed and I hope to do just that.

Everyone has made me feel welcome and all I want to do now is to find the right house and settle in. The prices around Manchester aren't any different from London so it's important to make the right choice.

Incidentally, people have asked me if I minded moving away from London. The answer is "No". My job has taken me to Manchester and from what I've seen, the coun-



STEVE COPPELL

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S

Quiz Time

1. Which Third Division club — Blackpool, Barnsley or Blackburn Rovers — offered Manchester City's Mike Channon the chance to become player-manager?

2. Norwich City opened the new season with a fine 4-2 win at Everton. Was it manager John Bond's first League victory away from home for one, two or three years?

3. Did Tony Currie make his League debut for Queens Park Rangers at home to Bristol Rovers on August 18th?

4. The comeback of the day must have been Fulham's tremendous 4-3 win at Birmingham, after being 3-0 down. Who was the hat-trick hero for the London club?

5. Former Manchester City centre-half Dave Watson, now playing in West Germany for Werder Bremen, was in trouble recently when he was sent-off. Was he dismissed for kicking, fighting or arguing with the referee?

6. Brighton's debut in the First Division became a disaster when they were thrashed 4-0 by Arsenal at the Goldstone Ground. How many goals did strikers Alan Sunderland and Frank Stapleton score between them?

7. Rangers and Celtic had their first Premier Division clash of the new season recently. (a) Where was the game played and (b) what was the result?

8. On the same day, Dundee United suffered a 1-0 defeat by which of the promoted clubs — Dundee or Kilmarnock?



9. Can you name the Second Division player who scored two goals against his former club on the first day of the season?

10. Charlton signed which former player for £30,000 from New England Tea Men?

11. Ex-England midfielder international star, Colin Bell (left) quit football recently through a knee injury. Did he gain 38, 48 or 58 England caps?

12. Can you name the two Millwall players who both underwent ankle operations recently?

13. Was F.A. Secretary Ted Croker, Football League's Alan Hardaker or England manager Ron Greenwood quoted recently as saying: "Young

people are the raw material for our great game but we cannot expect youngsters to be attracted to football in the face of stiff competition from other activities if we do not provide them with adequate facilities."

14. Sheffield United have had eight managers since the last War. Ted Davison, Reg Freeman, Joe Mercer, John Harris (twice), Arthur Rowley, Ken Furphy and Harry Haslam are seven... can you name the other?

15. This action photograph (above) was taken during Liverpool's 3-1 win against Arsenal in the F.A. Charity Shield at Wembley. Can you identify the two players tussling for the ball?

ANSWERS:

1. Blackpool. 2. Two years. 3. No — he was out injured. 4. Gordon Davies. 5. Fighting. 6. Three — Sunderland (two) and Stapleton one. 7. (a) Ibrox, home of Rangers. (b) a 2-2 draw. 8. Kilmarnock. 9. Orient's Ralph Coates against Burnley. 10. Colin Powell. 11. 48. 12. John Mitchell and Barry Kitchen. 13. Ted Croker. 14. Jimmy Stirling. 15. Steve Walters of Arsenal (right) and Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish.

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WATCH out for the revival of Burnley in the Second Division this season! That's the promise from Paul Fletcher.

Fletcher, the established Burnley striker, has been at Turf Moor for nine years. And in that time, he's seen the good and bad times roll along for Burnley Football Club. Fletcher, too, has had his ups and downs and is hoping this new season will show him back to his best form.

"It's been an indifferent spell for both the club and myself," he says. "I had a nasty injury which took a while to clear up. I had a cartilage operation but complications set in and I had problems. I was fine last season but I really only feel I am building up towards the situation I was in a couple of years ago. Then, I was doing well but the injury knocked me back.

"I feel that Burnley could be back in the First Division within three years. I feel certain that we will regain that place but it's hard to say which season it will be.

"I am of the opinion we are now good enough to beat many sides. We have a mixture of youth and experience and we should be strong enough to go close to the top.

"But it could be two or three seasons before we finally make it. Winning promotion doesn't happen overnight: a side has to build up to it and that's what we plan to do now, starting this season. We had an encouraging start by drawing with Orient and Charlton in our opening two games."

Burnley's problem for the last

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Burnley bouncing back-promises Fletcher

two or three seasons has been a lack of goals. And Fletcher admits he's been as responsible as anyone for the goal-famine.

"I scored nine League goals last season but I was looking for many more. The total wasn't enough and I knew it. Peter Noble finished up as our leading scorer with 14 but Steve Kindon alongside me and Leighton James getting just three. We all knew we hadn't got enough to help the side.

"Burnley have been short of goals for a few seasons now and we are aiming to change that this time. We have to approach the problem in a totally different way for we must drop our defensive attitude and try and attack more.

"I think we have tended to concentrate on defence too much in the last couple of seasons but then, that was perhaps inevitable because of the trouble we had in the relegation zone. When you're

fighting to avoid the drop you obviously think first of conceding goals. It has taken us a while to drop that attitude.

"I think the signs are encouraging for the future, however. Only two sides really beat us thoroughly last season and they were both promoted... Crystal Palace and Stoke City. We more than held our own against the rest."

Fletcher says that what sabotaged Burnley's chances was the appalling weather which struck the whole country for months.

"The North had it much worse than anywhere else and we suffered badly," he said. "When the bad weather started, we were on the fringe of the promotion group inside the top ten in the table.

"But once it had finally finished, other sides had played their games — particularly Southern clubs like Palace and Brighton — and they were ten points ahead of us. Although we had games in hand, we knew we'd never make up a gap like that and we were really



depressed with the weather."

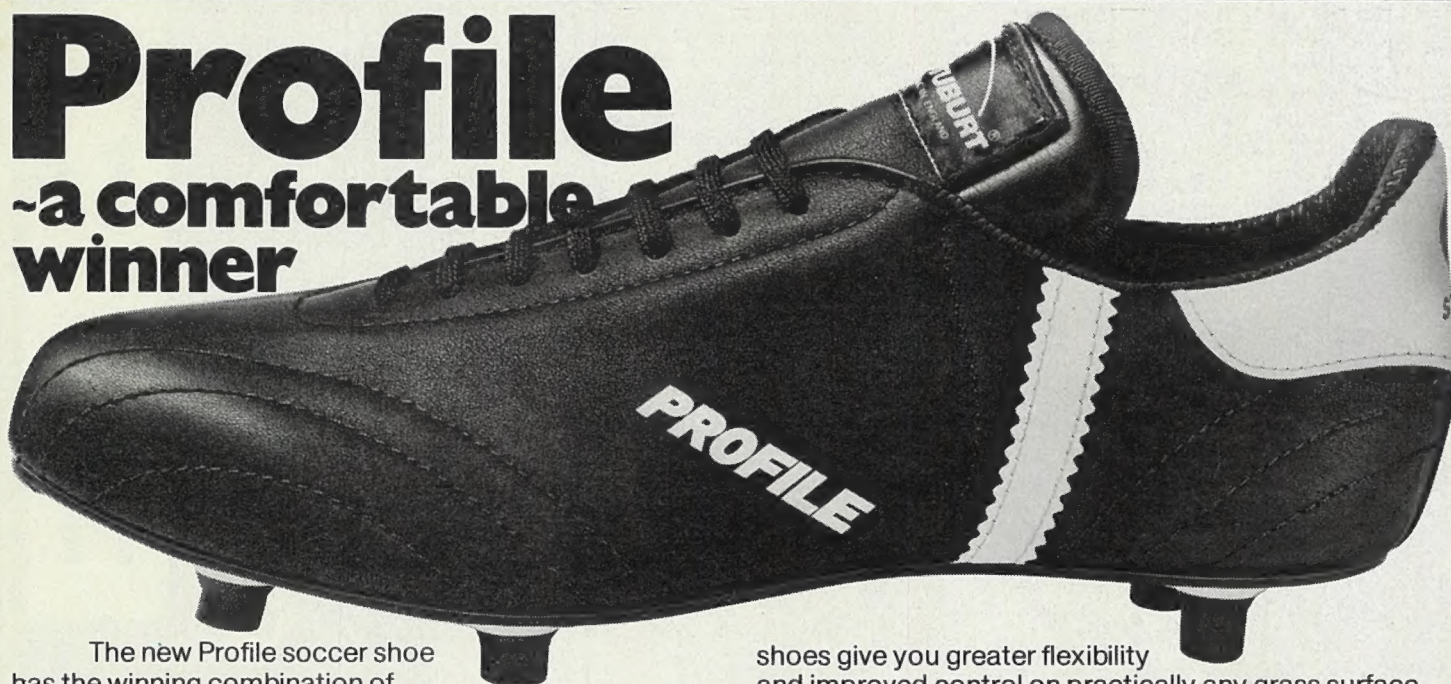
Burnley have now consolidated their Second Division slot after a couple of near misses in the relegation zone. And it's a pretty sound bet the club will now start looking ahead to the future with more confidence.

"We had a spell of a few years when we didn't seem to be getting the excellent kids coming through as they had done," says Fletcher. "But I think we've got over those barren years for there are now some fine youngsters maturing quickly. They will be the stars of tomorrow at Turf Moor and we're hoping they will help give the club a fine future.

"We are all confident those poor times are now behind us. I think we will prove that this season by getting much higher up the table than we have done for a few seasons now. We shouldn't be scared of anyone in the Second Division and if we can worry more sides, so much the better."

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BACK ROW (left to right): Billy Rodaway, Ian Brennan, Malcolm Smith, Derek Scott
 MIDDLE ROW: Leighton James, Peter Robinson, Steve Kindon, Alan Stevenson, Tony Arns, Billy Ingham
 FRONT ROW: Joe Jakub, Jim Thomson, Peter Noble, Paul Fletcher, Brian Hall



BURNLEY

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